Foreign
Broadcast
Information
Service
50
ANNIVERSARY
1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-188
Friday
27 September 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-188 CONTENTS *27 September 1991*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Team Visits Iraq To Discuss POW's *[MENA]* 1
*Demarche To Free Egyptian Detainees in Iraq *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Aug]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Palestine National Council Session Continues 1
  'Arafat, 'Abd-Rabbuh Comment *[Amman TV]* 1
  Spokesman on Discussions *[Algiers Radio]* 2
  Qaddumi Interviewed on Political Report *[Algiers VOP]* 2
  Nabil Sha'th Notes Change in U.S. Stance *[Algiers VOP]* 3
  'Heated Debates' on Peace Conference *[Algiers Radio]* 4
  PNC Committee Leaning Toward Conference *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Commentary Urges Participation at Peace Talks *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Presence in Algiers Denied *[Algiers TV]* 5
'Arafat Adviser Says Saudis To Release PLO Funds *[AFP]* 5

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Secretary on Quotas, Pricing, Environment *[OPECNA]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

National Liberation Front Supports Electoral Law *[Algiers Radio]* 7
IAEA Grants Assistance for Nuclear Projects *[AFP]* 7

Egypt

Mubarak Leaves for Two-Day Visit to Moscow *[MENA]* 7
  USSR's Belonogov Interviewed *[MENA]* 7
Reports on Musa Meeting With Baker in New York *[Cairo Radio]* 8
  Sees 'Step Forward' at PNC *[Cairo Radio]* 8
'Amr Musa Views Prospects for Peace Process *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Sep]* 8
  On Israeli Settlements Issue *[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 24 Sep]* 13
  More on Peace Process *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Sep]* 15
Foreign Minister Addresses U.S. Jewish Leaders *[MENA]* 15
Government To Supply Weapons to Lebanon *[AL-SAFIR 24 Sep]* 16
Assembly Committee Supports Resolution 3379 *[MENA]* 16
Bush Request on Resolution 3379 Questioned *[MENA]* 16
Settlements Must Be Addressed Before Conference *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Peace Conference Without Palestinians Rejected *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 22 Sep]* 17
Columnist Sees 'Difficult, Cruel' Talks Ahead *[SABAH AL-KHAYR 26 Sep]* 18
Mubarak Request for GCC Aid Reported *[AL-SHIRA' 23 Sep]* 19
Probe Into Drug Charges Against Deputies *[MENA]* 19
  Assembly Lifts Deputy's Immunity *[MENA]* 19
Muslim Figure Criticizes Policy on Israel *[AL-SHA'B 24 Sep]* 19
'Amr Musa Meets Argentine, PRC Officials *[Cairo Radio]* 20

Omani Minister Leaves Cairo Following Visit *[MENA]* 20
Butrus Ghali Returns From Foreign Tour *[MENA]* 20
Israeli Arrested in Tabah for Possessing Bullets *[MENA]* 20

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Delegation From Chad *[Tripoli Radio]* 20
Convening of Basic People's Congresses Decreed *[Tripoli Radio]* 21
  People's Congresses Resume Sessions *[JANA]* 21
People's Committee Sends Note to Arab League *[JANA]* 21

Sudan

Army Offensive Predicted for 30 Sep in Darfur *[Libreville Radio]* 21
RCC Member Meets With Visiting Libyan *[SUNA]* 22
Phase 2 of Ethiopian Soldiers' Repatriation Begins *[Omdurman Radio]* 22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Military Forces on Alert for Possible Action *[Cairo Radio]* 23
Defense Minister Says No to U.S. Bases *[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 26 Sep]* 23
Council of Ministers Ratifies Damascus Declaration *[KUNA]* 23

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Comments on Oil Supply Issue *[SPA]* 23
Fahd Envoy Cited on Moscow Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Sep]* 24
Minister Meets U.S., UK, German Counterparts *[SPA]* 24

IRAQ

Security Council Agrees on Team's Departure *[INA]* 25
National Assembly Supports Saddam on Inspections *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
INA on Background of Inspector David Kay *[INA]* 26
Biological Weapons Inspector Sees No Production *[INA]* 26
Paper Sees Team Issue as Pretext for Aggression *[INA]* 26
Foreign Minister Meets Turkish Counterpart *[INA]* 27
UN Head Told U-2 Mission 'Flagrant Aggression' *[INA]* 27
  Protest Made on 25 Sep Overflights *[INA]* 27
Bush's Plans Said Foiled by Policy of Restraint *[INA]* 28
Search for Troops 'Buried Alive' Televised *[INA]* 28
Former Algerian President Arrives on Visit *[INA]* 28
Nonaligned Movement Asked To Expel Kuwait *[INA]* 28
Syria, Egypt Criticized for Stance During War *[BABIL 23 Sep]* 29
Turkish Charges on Support for PKK Denied *[INA]* 30
Attacks on Government Troops Reported *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 30
Salih on Internal Affairs, Foreign Relations *[AL-AHALI 25 Sep]* 30
Talk Says Iraqis Reject New Wars, Disasters *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 32
Prime Minister Chairs Agriculture Output Meeting *[INA]* 33

ISRAEL

U.S. Warned on Meeting al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi *[HA'ARETZ 27 Sep]* 34
Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Deny Attending PNC *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Eytan Pulls Support for Participation in Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Labor Changing Stand on PLO, Palestinian State *[HA'ARETZ 27 Sep]* 35
  To Submit No-Confidence Motion *[Jerusalem TV]* 35
Israeli Arabs Urge PNC To Okay Role in Talks *[DAVAR 26 Sep]* 35
Poll: Most Palestinians Doubt 'Just Solution' *[HADASHOT 27 Sep]* 35

Levi, Turkish Minister Discuss Water Conference *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 36
Comment: Shamir Not To Negotiate on Territories *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 26 Sep]* ... 36
Settlers Say Clause Prepares for Withdrawal *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 26 Sep]* ... 37
    Arens Orders Clause Canceled *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 37
Security Forces Detain 460 PFLP Activists *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 37

JORDAN

Reshuffle Closer After Cabinet Debate on Peace *[JORDAN TIMES 26-27 Sep]* ... 38
    Reshuffle Expected in 'Next 48 Hours' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ... 39
Hasan on Ties With PLO, Peace Conference *[Amman TV]* ... 39
Al-Nasur on Peace Conference, Baker Meeting *[Amman Radio]* ... 40
King Postpones National Assembly Session *[Amman Radio]* ... 40

LEBANON

VOL Reports on al-Hirawi's Meetings in New York ... 41
Al-Husayni Outlines U.S. Assurances *[VOL]* ... 41
Cicippio Reportedly To Be Released by 29 Sep *[VOM]* ... 41
Tehran Medics Said Examining Hostages for Release *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 26 Sep]* ... 41
Amal, Hizballah Claim Attack on Lahdist Militia *[Beirut Radio]* ... 42
Minister Junblatt Criticizes Government *[Beirut Radio]* ... 42

SYRIA

Al-Shar' on Peace Conference, Palestinian Rights *[VOL]* ... 43
Al-Shar' Discusses U.S. Guarantees With Baker *[Damascus Radio]* ... 43
John Major Thanks al-Asad on Jack Mann's Release *[Damascus TV]* ... 43
Al-Zu'bi, EC Parliamentary Team Discuss Relations *[Damascus Radio]* ... 43
Foreign Ministry on Israeli Golan 'Violations' *[SANA]* ... 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Chief of Staff Criticizes Pakistan Aid to Rebels *[Kabul Radio]* ... 45
Kabul Battalion Surrenders in Jowzjan *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 45
Khaliqyar Speaks at UN General Assembly 26 Sep *[BAKHTAR]* ... 45
Protocol Signed With India on Wheat *[Kabul Radio]* ... 46

Bangladesh

Presidential Candidates File Nomination Papers *[Dhaka Radio]* ... 46
President Meets Indian Team, Pakistani Navy Chief *[Dhaka Radio]* ... 46
Japanese Debt Relief Assistance Pact Signed *[Dhaka Radio]* ... 46

India

Foreign Minister Speaks at UN General Assembly *[Delhi Radio]* ... 46
Pakistan Military Agrees To Diffuse Tension *[Delhi Radio]* ... 47
President Receives New Soviet Ambassador *[Delhi Radio]* ... 47
Assam Chief Minister Comments on Situation *[Delhi Radio]* ... 47
Twenty-one 'Militants' Killed at Kashmir Border *[Delhi Radio]* ... 47
Students Protest New Job Reservation Policy *[Delhi Radio]* ... 47
Front, Left Parties Criticize Price Hike *[Delhi Radio]* ... 48
Ordinance Issued on Private, Public Sector Units *[Delhi Radio]* ... 48
* Learning Tamil Made Compulsory *[DINAMANI 7 Sep]* ... 48

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons *[Tehran Radio]* ... 48

Criticizes Peace Conference *[Tehran International]* 49
Velayati Holds Sideline Meetings at UN Session 50
Meets Various Counterparts 25 Sep *[IRNA]* 50
Report on 26 Sep Meetings *[IRNA]* 50
Meets Soviet, Azerbaijani Counterparts *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Meets France's Dumas, Others 27 Sep *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Commentary on Bush's 'Opportunistic' UN Speech *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Dailies on Kuwait-U.S. Pact, GCC Cooperation 52
Pact Endangers Cooperation With GCC *[IRNA]* 52
Muslims Urged To 'Confront' Pact *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 21 Sep]* 52
GCC Plus Iran Viewed 'Best' Plan for Security *[TEHRAN TIMES 18 Sep]* 53
U.S. Acts in Iraq Show 'Irreconcilability' *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 23 Sep]* 54
Visiting Syrian Chief of Staff Meets Shahbazi *[IRNA]* 54
Cuban Energy Minister Arrives for Visit 55
Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Meets Majles Speaker, Ends Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Indonesian Minister Meets Ahmad Khomeyni *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Letter of Understanding Signed *[IRNA]* 55
Reportage on Demonstrations, Strikes, Unrest 55
Melli University Students Demonstrate *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 55
Workers' Strikes Continue *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 56
Ahvaz Unrest Continues *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 56
Clashes, Unrest in Kordestan *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 56
Tehran University Students Demonstrate *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 56

Pakistan

'U.S.-Led' 'Destruction' of Iraq Criticized *[AFP]* 57

Sri Lanka

Forces 'Inching' Toward LTTE's Camp Michael *[Colombo Radio]* 57
Security Forces Capture Camp *[Colombo Radio]* 57
Peace Initiatives Launched 27 Sep *[AFP]* 58

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Team Visits Iraq To Discuss POW's

NC2609153491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1512 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—'Abdallah Adam, envoy of the Arab League secretary general, left Cairo for Baghdad today. He is leading a delegation from the Arab League Secretariat to discuss the issue of Kuwaiti POW's in Iraq.

In a pre-departure statement, 'Abdallah Adam said he is carrying a message from Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid to Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir asking him to facilitate the delegation's mission. The Iraqi Government has already announced that it will cooperate with the delegation.

Adam said the delegation's mission is confined to resolving the issue of the Kuwaiti POW's in Iraq. He noted, however, that the delegation will try to secure the release of all POW's and detainees of various nationalities.

The Arab League official said there is no time limit for his mission in Iraq and that he also might visit Kuwait.

*Demarche To Free Egyptian Detainees in Iraq

92P40001A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Sep 91 p 2

[Excerpt] Cairo bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from Arab sources in Cairo that Egypt has requested that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, intervene with Iraqi authorities to free Egyptians detained in Iraq. Egypt also requested that the director general provide it with complete lists and reports concerning Egyptians held in Iraqi prisons.

The sources said that India, caretaker of Egyptian interests in Iraq, had been informed of this request, which was made after Egypt received information that Iraqi authorities were detaining hundreds of Egyptian workers in Iraq, that they were not permitted to depart for Egypt, and that some of them had resorted to fleeing across the Kuwaiti or Iranian borders.

At the Arab League meetings, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir requested the mediation of a number of Arab foreign ministers to bring about the resumption of diplomatic relations between his country and Egypt, along with joint consultations to resolve related problems—in particular, payments due to Egyptian workers and companies in Iraq that have not been made since August 1990. [passage omitted]

The sources revealed that the Iraqi foreign minister was making a new round of efforts on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meetings in New York to restore diplomatic relations with some Arab states.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestine National Council Session Continues

'Arafat, 'Abd-Rabbuh Comment

JN2609183391 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The Palestine National Council [PNC] is leaning toward accepting the American initiative and agreeing to attend the peace conference to be called by the United States. This trend emerged from last night's and this morning's PNC sessions. More in the following report by our man in Algiers Salim 'Ali Dhiyab:

[Begin video recording] [Dhiyab] [passage omitted] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has made it clear to Jordan Television that the PNC's deliberations favor Palestinian interests taking into consideration present realities.

['Arafat] There have been, as you know, many Palestinian-U.S. meetings. There have been Palestinian demands. We have focused on Bush's initiative which we have welcomed. We facilitated Secretary Baker's moves. Meetings were held between him and Palestinian leaders inside the occupied territory. Under the present circumstances, we wish there were a U.S. commitment to give teeth to this initiative. We say land for peace, 242 and 338, and the withdrawal from the territories that have been occupied since 1967—Arab and Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem. We say legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people. When we say legitimate, this means the rights legalized by international legitimacy.

[Dhiyab] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, chief of the Information Department at the PLO, said in statements to Jordan Television the resolutions to be passed by the PNC should be realistic and responsible.

['Abd-Rabbuh] A national decision expressing the collective will of the Palestinian people within and without the occupied homeland will be passed. We have received numerous memorandums from inside the occupied homeland, all urging the adoption of a realistic, national line sticking to national objectives and responding to events and changes that have taken place globally and regionally. I believe the Council is leaning toward making a decision today or tomorrow. This decision will state the PLO's positive preparedness to approach the peace process. Its approach to a number of questions will be such as to secure the necessary conditions for a successful peace process. Above all, there should be an immediate halt to settlement activity in the occupied territory, as the land-for-peace principle becomes irrelevant with continued settlement. Also, Jerusalem will have to be looked upon as an integral part of the land seized in 1967. Then there is the question of self-determination and the need to stress the requirement of withdrawal from all occupied land. All are issues that need international guarantees and a collective Arab stand and commitment, especially by the Arab states directly involved in the peace process. The PNC will underscore these issues against the background of a positive approach to the peace process. Regarding the configuration of Palestinian participation in the peace process, it rests on the fact of a monolithic Palestinian people and the fact that the Palestinian people must play a role equal to the other parties within the framework of coordination and joint action at the highest level with Arab brethrens, especially with the brothers in Jordan.

[Dhiyab] If I understand you correctly, the decison will be a conditional yes?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We consent to take part in the peace process, indeed we have been involved in the process since it was launched. We are not laying impossible conditions. We are proposing bases that should make the peace process itself a success. The Council's stand is, therefore, a continuation of the line of Palestinian national realism—a line that addresses itself to all the world with realistic Palestinian national demands: withdrawal, self-determination, settlement cessation, demands related to Jerusalem. These demands, and this line and spirit are the same as those of the intifadah. It was the intifadah that consolidated the realistic, national spirit in the Palestinian and PLO policies. It is from the spirit of the intifadah that we draw our approach to these issues that we have before us. We know that the decisions of these sessions will leave their imprint on future Palestinian generations. [end recording]

Spokesman on Discussions

LD2709011591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Report by correspondent Slimani on news conference with Palestine National Council spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman and unidentified reporters in Algiers—live]

[Text] Under Mr. 'Arafat's guidance, and in the presence of the leaders of the Palestinian factions, the fate of the Palestinian future has been discussed for more than five hours on the sidelines of the political committee's open proceedings, which attracted a majority of members, especially since most committees had concluded their proceedings. It is expected that the political committee will end its proceedings tonight. It is also expected that its spokesman will present a draft political list that will probably raise conclusions not pleasing to some while we follow the contradiction and divergence of attitudes through seemingly endless variations.

If discussions are being held without any real problems, the situation is completely different at the drafting committee, which is scrutinizing every detail, including commas and periods.

We would like to remind you that Mr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, the official Palestine National Council spokesman, held a news conference this evening. At the outset, Mr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman talked about the general orientation of the council. He said:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Rahman] We are in the course of achieving a joint and unified political program agreed to by all the forces participating in the PNC. This, as you can see, takes time—there has been a discussion for over 36 hours. The number of council members taking the floor has reached over 100 on the political subject alone.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

['Abd-al-Rahman] No, that is the Palestinian procedure.

[Reporter] Faruq Qaddumi said that we will attend the conference no matter the circumstances.

['Abd-al-Rahman] That was a report put forward by Mr. Faruq Qaddumi to the National Council, which has the last say.

[Reporter] What views are there on this point?

['Abd-al-Rahman] There are supporters and there are detractors.

[Reporter] Has attending the conference been decided and on what conditions?

['Abd-al-Rahman] That is now a subject of discussion at the National Council, which I hope will conclude its proceedings either tonight or tomorrow morning.

[Reporter] What are the conditions being discussed by the various Palestinian factions inside the hall?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Every speaker at this council has his own vision and analysis. The council is a democratic forum for all. Now we have a drafting committee where all political forces participate. This committee is expected to conclude its proceedings tonight so the council can discuss the draft political program, its adoption or rejection, in an open session.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

['Abd-al-Rahman] No one can touch Palestinian constants. [end recording]

Yes, all speakers insist on that sentence: There is no abandoning Palestinian constants. It was also the last sentence uttered by a speaker even as I speak to you from the hall. The proceedings continue.

Qaddumi Interviewed on Political Report

LD2609230891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] A VOP reporter has met inside the Palestine National Council conference hall with Brother Faruq Qaddumi [Abu al-Lutf], PLO Political Department head and member of the Executive Committee, whose political report gave rise to long discussions about various viewpoints within the framework of Palestinian pluralism and democracy epitomized by the PNC. Brother Abu al-Lutf told VOP:

[Begin Abu al-Lutf recording] Such a political report took into consideration the facts and truths as they are on the ground. We should not report anything else. Furthermore, we pointed out, in detail, the issues and problems facing the Palestinian people and the Palestinian leadership following the Gulf War, presenting the international situation as it is, given all the changes that have taken place. We took into consideration the future of our people and their ordeal. We also took into consideration the long historical episode of the Palestinian struggle. With honesty and sincerity, we put problems into perspective for examination and discussion. We want the picture of the ideas, challenges, people's plight, and unsettled future facing us to be very clear to the representatives of the Palestinian people in order that the decision to be made can be accurate and able to resolve such problems.

We believe that the international situation is changing and that the United States has become the only power in today's world. Following the Gulf War, the Arab nation was overwhelmed by division, which we all know about. Political isolation was imposed upon the PLO as well as financial isolation. We have managed to overcome the political isolation by adopting a flexible postures. [four minute break in transmission]

The Arab summit was held, as we know, under the title of preserving Arab security, resisting Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union, and examining the U.S. and Israeli threats to Iraq, especially since Iraq procured the fourth weapon, which is liable to disturb the balance of power in the region and to lead to imposition or contribution to finding a just settlement and allowing the Arab nation to impose its conditions on Israel. As Bush told Israel when he disagreed with it on loans: We have struck your most powerful opponent in the region. What else do you want? Thus he admitted that he had struck Iraq for Israel's sake.

This has been our view from the beginning—finding an Arab solution, because all the Arab problems that have appeared throughout this era were settled within the Arab house, within the framework of the Arab League. They were not referred to the UN Security Council. This trend to refer Arab problems to the UN Security Council was tantamount to inviting foreign intervention in Arab affairs for the first time.

It would have been possible, if it had been treated by the Arab League as it had treated the events of Jordan in 1970, the events of Lebanon in [word indistinct] and the events of 1961 when 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim threatened to go into Kuwait....[changes thought] It was President 'Abd-al-Nasir who treated this question at that time within the framework of the Arab League.

In any case, we learn from experiences, because this war that was financed by the Arabs [words indistinct] very regrettably must be learned from, as we explained in the political report, where we said that all the Arab countries, be they the Gulf states or brave Iraq, are sisterly countries. We would like to go back to Arab solidarity.

We feel the suffering of the Iraqi people, who have borne the brunt of comprehensive destruction of their infrastructure.

All of this was included in the political report. We even explained the conditions of our people inside Kuwait and what they suffered as a result of this war. We also pointed out our relations with Arab countries and how we managed to develop those relations with sister Egypt and with Jordan; how we managed to pay visits to Syria after a long break, to establish balanced relations and to work for coordination among the four Arab parties which are concerned with political settlement and which discuss this settlement. We asked the secretary general to coordinate among us and the other countries not directly concerned with the settlement issues.

We are doing our utmost to unite the Arab rank so that the Arabs speak in unison and so that there is also a united Arab stance. We are doing all we can to overcome these difficult problems. We are facing two options, the best of which is still a hard one. This is our difficult choice. Nobody says accept and nobody says reject. Some say to deal with events so that you can rid yourselves and your people from the impasse and preserve the people's national legitimate rights to self-determination, to return to their homeland and to set up their independent Palestinian state.

I am certain that with God's help we can achieve these goals. There are indeed signs of consolidation of national unity inside and outside. In other words, our people are actively participating in all political activities. A delegation from Jerusalem attended the Islamic Conference in Istanbul and participated within the Palestinian delegation. As we take this course, we ask God for success. [end recording]

Nabil Sha'th Notes Change in U.S. Stance

LD2609210691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Brother Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the political committee emanating from the Palestine National Council, announced in a short statement to the press Thursday morning that there is noticeable development in the U.S. stance and true recognition that the PLO is leading the negotiation process. He added that this does not mean the PLO is satisfied with what it has achieved so far, and it has to continue its promising struggle to impose its conditions for participation in the peace conference.

Concerning the reason for this development in the U.S. stance, Brother Nabil Sha'th explains that its harks back to the struggle of the Palestinian people and to the PLO's awareness and continuous struggle to achieve the Palestinian right.

He reaffirmed that the PLO wants a just peace in accordance with international legitimacy, which is recognized at the Arab and international levels. The PLO does not want war.

Brother Nabil Sha'th reaffirmed that dialogue concerning the peace conference is continuing with the aim of coordinating the Arab stance and achieving an agreement on a meeting of the five states surrounding Israel, which should be held shortly. He emphasized that the PLO relies on Algeria and the Maghreb states to back the Palestinian position in order to attain successful negotiations and an honorable national position for regaining Palestinian rights and achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

'Heated Debates' on Peace Conference

LD2709085491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The Palestine National Council resumes the proceedings of its 20th session at the Club des Pines today. Last night witnessed a marathon session and heated debates regarding the Middle East peace efforts. Let us hear more details from our correspondent Mohamed Haloub:

A heated debate took place in the political committee after it resumed its proceedings in closed session yesterday evening. The session focused mainly on ways of dealing with the current political operation—that is, the peace conference.

Following these discussions, two main trends emerged. One supports an absolute rejection of the proposed peace initiative, and the other stresses the need to deal with this opportunity and show the necessary flexibility and realism warranted by the circumstances witnessed by the Palestinian cause.

Generally speaking, and according to specific information, we can state that the PNC is relying strongly on a Palestinian representation from inside the occupied land. The PNC wishes to remain on the fringes of the political maneuver by distancing itself from stances of rejection. Such stances do not serve the interests of the Palestinian people in the present international circumstances.

At the same time, the PNC would like to retain an acceptable Palestinian standing in international public opinion if it does not object to the principle of Palestinian representation without the umbrella of the PLO, which, as is known, has not been invited to attend the conference. [passage omitted]

One significant development we would like to mention is a telephone call that president Yasir 'Arafat received from King Hassan II following his talks with U.S. President George Bush. During this telephone conversation, King Hassan II emphasized to president 'Arafat the commitment of the U.S. President to the UN resolutions, the principle of land for peace, and the recognition of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

In conclusion, we would like to mention that the PNC proceedings will resume at 1000 this morning.

PNC Committee Leaning Toward Conference

LD2609152491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The Palestine National Council meetings in Algiers are continuing at the committee level. The information that has filtered out so far has confirmed that the Palestinians are still widely divided over the question of attending or boycotting the peace conference scheduled for next month. Here is a radio report directly from the Club des Pines on today's meetings:

The eyes of all reporters at the Palais des Nations are focused today, the fourth day of the session, on the general debates hall where the most important committee, the political committee, has been continuing its deliberations in closed sessions.

According to sources close to the political committee, it seems that following the exchange of all the information on Palestinian talks with the U.S. Administration, the trend that began to develop toward the peace conference was almost one of approving the U.S. guarantees. The U.S. proposals were being viewed seriously because those people who participated in these talks were certain that the U.S. was serious, and had overcome the previously prevalent influence of the Zionist lobby, as Israel itself has become the focus of U.S. efforts aimed at fulfilling the essential need to hold the peace conference with the participation of Palestinians.

This is what has been affirmed by Palestinian sources close to the political committee.

According to other information filtering from that group, the political committee is moving toward granting wider powers to the PLO Executive Committee by authorizing it to decide the PLO's position on the peace conference and the form of Palestinian participation. This is provided the moves of the PLO Executive Committee are linked to possible developments on the regional level, and the likely chance of further developments in the U.S. stance.

The PLO Executive Committee is expected to be reformed, a move which—the same Palestinian source says—will be carried out on the basis of including personalities whose views on the peace conference are consistent with the analyses made by President Yasir 'Arafat, which tend to favor attendance at the peace conference, with some conditions, of course.

Regarding the question of conditions, it is believed that an agreement with the U.S. will provide for phased negotiations, with the Jerusalem question being the first issue. It was agreed that the delegation to be formed will be made up of people from Jerusalem.

The second issue would be the need to end the settlement operation. The next stage of the negotiations will cover the discussion of two points: Israeli-Palestinian coexistence and the question of self-determination.

The PNC position therefore seems to be moving toward approving participation in the peace conference, provided this participation is linked to some Palestinian conditions.

This state of affairs prompted the political committee to raise the matter of a possible return to the armed struggle to be used as a lever to pressure the U.S. and the Israeli positions in case the Palestinian conditions were not respected, on the one hand, or in case the PLO was not allowed to participate in representing the Palestinians.

Commentary Urges Participation at Peace Talks

LD2609175391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Analysis of the fourth day of proceedings at the Palestine National Council session in Algiers by radio correspondent Mohamed Lahcen Chayech]

[Text] It has become certain now, once again, that this 20th session of the Palestine National Council is one of the most important sessions of all times because it will determine whether the Palestinians will enter the last round of the political struggle and seize every available opportunity to wrest their rights from any side, or whether they will return to a static position as has happened to them several times before.

Of course, the PNC's decision to go to the conference is a difficult one, but the decision not to go is even more difficult. The results of participation in the conference are in fact known—at worst, the Palestinians will be offered administrative rule. However, the final results of non-participation are unknown, although there are some indications on this. We are not among those who support blackmail and threats such as "take this or you will get nothing at all," but the idea of the conference has come at a time which differs completely from any other time that the Palestinians have been through before, however harsh this might have been. The Palestinians have thus far refused to commit themselves to anything regarding the idea of the conference, in the hope that the Arab states concerned would refuse to participate, or at least not accept it unless clear guarantees were given to the Palestinians. This did not happen, however, and we have reached a stage where each party is looking after its own interests, even at the expense of others. In other words, the positions of all states in the region, including Israel, have become similar.

I believe that the Palestinians, whatever their political tendencies, have now realized that the states concerned in the region have abandoned them, and that they should either shoulder their burden or fall under it. Also, since the states in the region, such as Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon, have adopted their positions without consulting the Palestinians or coordinating with them, the Palestinians must do the same.

Strangely enough, however serious the decision on the issue of attending the conference may seem, it would still conceal facts that are not as serious as we may imagine. [sentence as heard] If the Palestinians say yes to the conference, unconditionally but with certain guarantees, they will at least succeed in opening a new front for political struggle, when all fronts have been closed to them. Then, through this front, they will be able to confront all parties with international legitimacy, which is recognized by all except Israel. This means that they will be in a position of strength, while Israel is in a position of weakness. And even if the Palestinian negotiators believe that things are not going as they had wished them to, there will be nothing to prevent them from suspending their participation, and they will lose nothing. On the contrary, they will be able to enter the United Nations from a different door and lay the responsibility on its shoulders, in a different manner from that which existed when the United Nations was in the situation we all know.

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Presence in Algiers Denied

LD2609211991 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The Palestinian news agency WAFA today denied the presence of Palestinians Faysal al-Husayni and Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi in Algiers. WAFA reiterated that the Palestine National Council received a message from the two personalities that was read to the PNC political committee. The agency urged the media to be precise and careful when sending reports.

'Arafat Adviser Says Saudis To Release PLO Funds

NC2609144691 Paris AFP in English 1420 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Algiers, Sept 26—Saudi Arabia, which cut ties to the Palestine Liberation Organization after its tilt toward Iraq in the Gulf crisis, has decided to release funds for the PLO it had frozen during the conflict, a senior PLO advisor said Thursday.

The Saudis had blocked distribution of money earned by a five percent PLO tax on the more than 100,000 Palestinian workers in the kingdom.

But Bassam Abu-Sharif, an advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, told AFP that Saudi authorities would now free the funds.

Asked if the Saudi move was an incentive to Palestinian participation in Middle East peace moves, Abu-Sharif would only say: "It's a good gesture to the PLO."

He was speaking during a meeting here of the Palestine National Council, or parliament-in-exile, that is debating whether or not to attend a peace conference the United States wants to convene in October.

"The overwhelming majority is favorable" to the conference, according to Abu-Sharif.

He said the Saudi move would also help the Palestinian uprising, or intifadah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Financial support is critical to the protest, which frequently includes strikes by Palestinian workers.

Abu-Sharif, who thanked King Fahd for release of the funds, said he hoped the Saudis would resume complete financial aid soon.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Secretary on Quotas, Pricing, Environment

LD2609185991 Vienna OPECNA in English 0111 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Geneva, 26 Sep (OPECNA)—OPEC'S new production ceiling of 23.65 million b/d for the fourth quarter of this year will help the organization's crude basket price move towards 21 dollars a barrel, according to OPEC Secretary General Dr. Subroto.

He told a press briefing here Wednesday evening, at the end of the fourth meeting of the OPEC ministerial monitoring committee, that the ministers perceived that the improvement seen in oil prices since July this year would continue to the end of the year. The price of the OPEC basket of seven crudes currently stood at just over 19 dollars a barrel.

However, Subroto pointed out that although the ceiling had been increased by 1.35 million b/d for the last three months of the year, it did not mean that member countries had been assigned new quotas.

He explained that the organization had not considered quotas since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis. "When you refer to quotas, you are referring to the OPEC agreement of July 1990. We have not been talking about quotas because we are in an abnormal situation," he said.

The OPEC secretary general added that only when the situation returns to normal, which is when Iraq and Kuwait are once again producing and exporting at the levels attained before the crisis erupted, would member countries consider returning to the quota system.

He said he could not pinpoint a date as to when quotas would again be introduced since they had to take into account the elements that necessitated the application of such a system.

Subroto noted that the new production ceiling included both Iraq and Kuwait and any oil output that they could bring onstream in the fourth quarter. He stressed that the organization would be carefully monitoring the situation in the two countries and if it saw something that required correction, then the president of the conference was empowered to call an emergency meeting.

The OPEC secretary general disclosed that the Iraqi oil minister had told the meeting that his country was going to produce and export crude just as soon as the logistics and procedural aspects concerning the United Nations resolution were sorted out.

"The Iraqi minister said that if the opportunity presented itself...the amount of one million b/d of oil production was mentioned for the end of this year," he said.

Asked about OPEC's current production capacity, Subroto said that it stood at 24 million b/d today, but that the level fluctuated, especially in the light of the fact that both Iraq and Kuwait would influence changes as they came back into production.

Regarding the environment, Subroto told reporters that too much attention was being placed on carbon dioxide emissions and not on other greenhouse gases and the fact that these gases were as a result of energy use, when other non-energy applications were also contributing.

He added that not enough attention was being paid to the development aspect of the environment. "We want to see the environment issue tackled in its entirety," he stressed.

Subroto revealed that the next OPEC ministerial talks—the ordinary conference—would be held in Vienna on 26 November with a meeting of the ministerial monitoring committee being held one day before. Autoprocessing Division

Algeria

National Liberation Front Supports Electoral Law

LD2609161891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The National Liberation Front has at last broken its silence and declared its support for the government in organizing free and clean legislative elections. A communique issued by the political bureau of the party implicitly authorizes parliamentary deputies to discuss and ratify the draft electoral law proposed by the government. This draft law will be submitted to the parliament on Saturday at its extraordinary session. This comes after the legislative committee yesterday ended its study of the proposals introduced by the government to amend the electoral and constituencies law, ratified under the previous government.

President Chadli Bendjedid is expected to set the date for the legislative elections immediately after the ratification of the electoral law.

IAEA Grants Assistance for Nuclear Projects

LD2609180991 Algiers APS in English 1012 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Algiers, 26 Sep (APS)—The International Agency of Atomic Energy (IAEA) granted to Algeria an assistance of $506,800 for the programme of technical assistance and cooperation for 1992. Funds will serve the financing of projects linked to the enforcement of nuclear techniques. The accord was concluded in connection with the works of the 35th session of the International Conference of Atomic Energy which took place in Vienna. During this conference Algeria was elected to the IAAE Council of Governors.

On this occasion, the minister delegate to research, technology and environment, Hadj Sleiman Chrif, stressed that "Algeria considered that it is important to carry on the task of the consolidation of national technological and scientific bases in order to reach a large use of nuclear technics in medicine, agriculture, hydraulics, industry, energy, and research."

Examining the progress achieved by Algeria in that field, the minister recalled that the reactor of research which is being built in the frame of cooperation with China will enable to meet on the one hand, the national damand in radioisotopes and in radiopharmaceutics, and on the other hand, different needs in the field of research.

Algeria decided "in a voluntary way to submit the 'Salam' reactor to guarantees of the IAEA and officially informed the head of the agency a few months ago," the minister indicated, before adding that "Algeria envisages in a unilateral way and in whole sovereignty to start with the IAEA negotiations for the conclusion of an accord of guarantees."

Egypt

Mubarak Leaves for Two-Day Visit to Moscow

NC2609115491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1121 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Moscow this afternoon for a two-day visit to the Soviet Union, during which he will hold important talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other senior Soviet officials. [passage omitted]

USSR's Belonogov Interviewed

NC2609141191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1223 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov has described President Husni Mubarak's current visit to Moscow as important. He said it is important because the meeting between Mubarak and Gorbachev will be held in an atmosphere of strong friendship.

In an interview with the Cairo magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, published today, Belonogov said Mubarak and Gorbachev will discuss international issues, foremost of which will be Middle East peace and disarmament, bilateral ties, and economic cooperation.

He added: We in the USSR greatly appreciate President Mubarak's stand on the recent events in our country.

He described Egyptian-Soviet relations as strong, stable, and constantly developing in a positive direction. He said that Egypt, which plays a major role in the region, has valuable influence there. Belonogov said his country supports President Mubarak's proposal to halt the arms race and emphasized that Israel must adopt this proposal by signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He declared that all the region's countries must adopt the proposal and accept international follow-up checks and inspection of all chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons.

On restoring relations with Israel, Belonogov said: We realize there is a vital need to restore full diplomatic relations with Israel. The problem is about timing, however. We are trying to coordinate the resumption of ties with the beginning of the peace process. The issue essentially is linked with the peace process. For this reason I hope we soon will hold a peace conference.

Asked to comment on Yasir 'Arafat's statement that the restoration of Soviet-Israeli relations will hinge on the resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, the Soviet deputy foreign minister said there is no firm link between these two matters. He declared: What I wish to stress is that a willingness to hold such a dialogue and the beginning of the peace process will automatically lead to the restoration of ties between the USSR and Israel.

On Jewish emigration to Israel, Belonogov said: We are careful to deal with Jewish emigration in the context of preserving Arab rights. The measures we adopt consider the rights of both parties.

He asserted that there is no difference between the Soviet and Arab stands on Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories. He announced: We reject such settlement because it is illegal and we have asked Israel not to settle immigrants in the occupied Arab territories.

Commenting on the call to abolish the 1975 UN resolution equating Zionism with racism, the Belonogov said: We believe it is not necessary to rewrite UN history, because if we abolish one resolution, then we will have to abolish others and this will give other parties the opportunity to call for abolishing resolutions of which they do not approve.

On the USSR's stance on forming a new world order and the monopoly the United States enjoys in this connection, he said: I do not believe the United States is the only country building this new order. No one country can have a monopoly on this issue. It is inevitable that the USSR, China, and other countries will be asked to contribute to the new world order. What I wish to stress here is that the USSR has had a role in building the new world order and will continue to play this role.

On the U.S.-Kuwaiti defense agreement, Belonogov said: I do not believe the defense agreement will include unexpected aspects. We know that Kuwait is concerned primarily with enhancing its security and, consequently, it has forged closer ties with the United States and shown interest in maintaining a certain type of U.S. presence. I understand this will be the essence of the defense agreement between Kuwait and the United States.

He denied that a U.S. presence anywhere in the world arouses Soviet fears, saying: We are now friends with the United States. We have passed the cold war stage. Detente and dialogue have replaced confrontation.

Reports on Musa Meeting With Baker in New York

NC2509125991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Musa told our correspondent in New York that they discussed the situation in the Middle East and the peace conference. He added that the United States will send invitations to the conference soon.

Musa said that he held intensive talks with a number of foreign ministers taking part in the UN General Assembly session, which focused on the Mideast peace process and ways to eliminate the obstacles impeding the convening of the conference. He stressed that the peace conference will be in the interest of all the parties concerned.

Sees 'Step Forward' at PNC

NC2609180791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in New York today. Musa told our New York correspondent that the talks focused on ways to promote the peace process. He said he hopes current efforts will bring about the peace process in October according to the agreement already reached.

Musa commented on a report from Algeria that the Palestine National Council [PNC] does not object to forming a Palestinian delegation to the peace talks which does not include PLO members. He said this is a step forward toward eliminating all existing obstacles. He asserted that consultations will continue during the coming weeks to make final preparations for the peace process. He said it is hoped all remaining obstacles, both Israeli and otherwise, will be surmounted.

Musa added that the U.S. secretary of state is consulting with the concerned parties to agree on a final version of U.S. guarantees.

'Amr Musa Views Prospects for Peace Process

PM2609134691 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Sep 91 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Text] [Matar] Let us begin with the peace process. What point has it reached and what, in your view, is the general atmosphere?
[Musa] The peace process is at a very active stage of consultations, contacts, and drafting. We hope the process will begin in earnest in October, as intended months ago.

[Matar] Will it begin in October? We have heard that it will begin in November.
[Musa] We hope so. A November date would not be a postponement. When we say October, it does not necessarily mean a specific date in October. There is no difference between 31 October and 1 November. What is important is that the negotiations begin on the target date or thereabouts. Why? Because it is in everyone's interest that the negotiations and the peace process begin quickly and that no time be wasted in postponements and obstructions, particularly since any obstruction of the peace process would be in the interest of the settlements process, would reinforce the seizure of territory, and so forth. So it would be better to start the peace process today rather than tomorrow.

[Matar] But the obvious differences are not encouraging with regard to meeting the target date.
[Musa] Of course there are still differences. This is no easy matter. It is a complex process, but there must be a start, and it should come about through the determination of all parties and through the intensive efforts of the

United States in particular. We hope this will indeed lead to the start of the peace process soon.

[Matar] The main obstacles are Palestinian. The [Palestine] National Council [PNC] is today discussing the peace process. What are your expectations?
[Musa] We hope that the PNC will take the peace process most seriously, on the basis of its necessity and on the basis of the definite Arab interest in ending Israel's occupation of Arab territory and the settlements process, and in fulfilling the Palestinian people's rights.

[Matar] The Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] have rejected the peace process on the present terms.
[Musa] We hear every view expressed by any party, particularly since there are some leaderships on the other side—that is, the Israeli side—who oppose the peace process. What is important is the final decision of the majority of political trends, in other words, the main Israeli trend and the main Palestinian trend. I am confident that the main trends on both sides support the peace process.

[Matar] Do you believe that the PNC might agree to a peace conference?

[Musa] We hope so, God willing.

[Matar] Some Palestinian tendencies—even those around Yasir 'Arafat—are not optimistic.
[Musa] There are many who are not optimistic. Experience makes some people suspicious, particularly in view of the continuing settlement activity and the inappropriate Israeli statements, but in our view the peace process remains a major process and should be given a full, full, chance before we pass judgment.

[Matar] How could the Palestinians, the PNC, and the PLO agree to the peace process without the PLO or the Palestinians outside the occupied territory having anything to do with it?
[Musa] The matter should not be viewed from that angle. It should be viewed from the more general angle. It is a process to end the Israeli occupation and it is a matter that concerns all the Palestinian people, both inside and outside, leaders and people, popular trends, and different organizations and views. The peace process concerns the PLO as well as the entire Palestinian people.

Furthermore, we should look ahead, and not view the situation within a certain circumstantial framework.

[Matar] How?
[Musa] Today we are talking about means of enhancing the peace process, but in the end, when we come to the comprehensive settlement, we could not possibly think that it would be completed separately from all the influential sectors of the Palestinian people.

[Matar] Which are the influential sectors of the Palestinian people?

[Musa] That is up to the Palestinian people to decide, because it is the Palestinian people who will ultimately determine their position on what is proposed or what will be proposed.

[Matar] What if the PNC is unable to go along with the peace process?
[Musa] I do not want to anticipate events, but I am confident that this process is in the interest of all the Palestinian people and that the PLO leaderships understand that well. I lean toward optimism, not pessimism.

[Matar] How will the Palestinians be represented at the conference?
[Musa] The proposed formula is a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation.

[Matar] What figures will actually participate?
[Musa] The question of which Palestinian figures will participate is unimportant. The participants will be representatives of the Palestinian people. There will be no foreigners representing the Palestinian people.

[Matar] Any PLO representatives?
[Musa] Representatives from the occupied territory.

[Matar] What about the PLO?
[Musa] Representatives from the occupied territory.

[Matar] Not from Jordan?
[Musa] The Palestinian part of the delegation will include representatives from the occupied territory. We hope to find a suitable formula for that question too.

[Matar] Will the Israelis accept representatives from Jerusalem?
[Musa] I believe that a suitable formula agreed upon by all should be arrived at.

[Matar] After Shamir's defeat by President Bush on the issue of the $10 billion, is he likely to retaliate against Bush on the peace process?
[Musa] No. I think that Israel will participate in the peace process. I have no doubt about that. Israel will participate in the peace process.

[Matar] To the end?
[Musa] Participation is the issue now. I hope that as it participates, Israel will be ready for positive, effective, and serious negotiations on the basis of the land-for-peace principle.

[Matar] And to give up the territories it occupies?
[Musa] They must, it is necessary; the question of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory must be considered. There can be no doubt about that.

[Matar] Fully?
[Musa] In accordance with Resolution 242, on the basis of the inadmissibility of the seizure of territory by war.

[Matar] The Americans say that Resolution 242 does not mean all the territories.

[Musa] The interpretation of that will be left to the negotiations, but principles are nonnegotiable. The principle is that the seizure of territory by war is inadmissible. That principle is nonnegotiable, but if there are certain considerations regarding the details of a withdrawal, then I would remind you that the principal interpretation is that any territorial changes should not reflect the weight of the invasion.

[Matar] Has Israel told you that it accepts that principle?
[Musa] Some recent Israeli statements are worrying, but I do not believe that the negotiations and the peace process can succeed in the end without the land-for-peace principle.

[Matar] Has Israel said anything to you through special channels?
[Musa] Contacts are still in progress on that.

[Matar] In other words, we are still looking for a positive Israeli position.
[Musa] No, we are still trying to put the Israeli position in the best framework for effective negotiations on the basis of the land-for-peace principle.

[Matar] You in Egypt are always optimistic about success.
[Musa] No, we insist on success and insist that there is no alternative to success, but that does not signify optimism. We know and appreciate the difficulties, but if we become pessimistic and say that the process was futile, we would not negotiate. Optimism is an integral part of the decision to tackle the issue. Had we been pessimistic before the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, we would have achieved nothing.

I warn against pessimism. I want us to proceed on the basis that there is a reasonable chance of reaching agreement.

[Matar] Is there any possibility of raising the level of Egyptian-Palestinian coordination?
[Musa] What do you mean?

[Matar] That Yasir 'Arafat visit Cairo.
[Musa] President Mubarak received 'Arafat in Libya recently.

[Matar] What about in Cairo?
[Musa] There is a time for everything, but our relations with the Palestinians are continuing. Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] has visited us. I left Cairo before he did. Qaddumi was there and I talked with him. So, there are contacts between us and the PLO and between us and the various influential elements of the Palestinian people.

[Matar] Will 'Arafat go to Cairo after the PNC session?
[Musa] I do not know. I do not want to anticipate events.

[Matar] What is 'Arafat's position after all that has happened?
[Musa] He is the PLO leader.

[Matar] Is he the sole negotiator on behalf of the Palestinian people?
[Musa] What do you mean by the sole negotiator? The negotiators will be from the occupied territory.

[Matar] But the figures who meet with James Baker, such as Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and others, insist that they were acting on 'Arafat's instructions.
[Musa] Exactly. They insist that they were acting on instructions.

[Matar] That means that 'Arafat is the one who makes Palestinian decisions.
[Musa] We cannot divide the Palestinian people. It is not part of our job to do so. The Palestinian people are one people, but when it comes to the negotiation process, there will be representatives from the occupied territory.

The Palestinian people are masters of their own decisions, and they decide who represents them and from where they receive their instructions.

[Matar] How would you describe Egypt's role in the peace process?
[Musa] On the basis of experience, history, responsibility, and commitment, it is a major role.

Egypt is an Arab state, not a mediator between two parties. It is an Arab state and its position on the peace issue is an Arab position, but our position also takes into consideration international developments, current circumstances, and future prospects. So we consider ourselves directly responsible for arriving at a process and at a peace agreement in the region.

[Matar] Will that responsibility be outside the framework of the conference, or will you attend it and take part in it?
[Musa] We will take part in the conference. All Egypt's power, diplomacy, and weight should be used to ensure the success of the peace process.

[Matar] Will you attend the conference or will it be confined to the other four parties?
[Musa] Of course. We will be members and participants of the conference. Egypt will be invited to attend the conference and we will be there in the conference halls and lobbies, and inside the conference and around it and everywhere.

[Matar] To what extent can the memorandums of understanding contribute to the success of the conference?
[Musa] The memorandums of understanding? They are assurances that could enhance the negotiating process.

[Matar] Insufficient assurances?
[Musa] I do not believe there can be 100 percent assurances for all.

[Matar] Including?
[Musa] Including the Israelis and the Palestinians. They are assurances based primarily on the U.S. position on the various aspects of the peace process, which are important; also on the U.S. part in the negotiations; and

third, on the other roles in the interest of the peace process, including the Egyptian role.

[Matar] What will the U.S. role be at the conference?
[Musa] I believe that the U.S. role is a principal role in the peace process. U.S. effectiveness is an accepted fact whether in connection with U.S.-Israeli relations, the U.S. global role, or the U.S. position on the various aspects of the process. Do not forget that the initiative was basically an American one and that the main efforts are American efforts. Baker's tours have managed to resolve a number of disputed points. To sum up, the U.S. role is a principal role, a necessary role, and a welcome role.

[Matar] Will it intervene in the direct negotiations if they falter?
[Musa] We will leave the details until later, but the U.S. role in the negotiations and in the details is a principal one, in our view.

[Matar] What if the negotiations falter at some point?
[Musa] That would require the assistance of other parties. It would depend on the negotiations. I do not wish to go into the details now.

[Matar] Would the mediator then be the whole conference or just the United States?
[Musa] All these matters will be agreed on before the process begins. What is the role of the conference? What are the roles of the parties? What is the role of other states not directly involved? And so on.

[Matar] When will the roles be determined?
[Musa] In the remaining time before the conference starts. We still have about a month.

[Matar] Is a month enough?
[Musa] Yes.

[Matar] What is the Soviet role?
[Musa] The Soviets will initially participate in addressing the invitation to the conference, then it will depend on what the parties want or need from a Soviet role or from U.S.-Soviet cooperation.

[Matar] Does any party really want a Soviet role now?
[Musa] Why not? On the contrary. We welcome the Soviet role.

[Matar] Welcoming is one thing and needing is quite another.
[Musa] It is definitely a welcome role. The need for it will be determined through the negotiation mechanism.

[Matar] Syria is making an effective contribution to the process. Do you think there is a possibility of its emerging from the conference with the Golan liberated?
[Musa] It must emerge from the conference with the Golan. The Golan is an occupied territory and its annexation is illegal. Israeli withdrawal from it is essential and so is its return to Syria. That is why Syria's participation is essential. There can be no progress in the peace process without it.

[Matar] Is Syria Egypt's partner in the peace process?
[Musa] Syria has a principal role. Do not forget that part of its territory is under occupation. We are Syria's partners. We are making efforts along with Syria, and we will use all our influence to serve Syria's right to regain the Golan.

[Matar] After that, will it be a partner or a rival in the region?
[Musa] Syria is not a rival. It is a partner, a sister, a friend, and a major contributer. We have full confidence in the Syrian role.

[Matar] The Egyptian and Syrian positions on Lebanon have sometimes differed.
[Musa] Let me say that there is an important point in what you say. It is natural for any two Arab states to have differences. We should not be afraid of that, should not make exaggerations about that, and should not hide it if there are differences between A and B or between C and D and so froth. If we want to be normal people, if the Arabs want to be normal like all other peoples, then we cannot say that we all do and say the same things at the same time, at the same moment. We must accept that there will be Arab differences, and that there are Arab differences, but we must open these differences to discussion and talk about them among ourselves in order to determine our views on any problem.

I am not talking here about Egypt and Syria in particular. I am talking about Arab relations in general. In the past we used to sweep such differences under the rug and say that there were no differences, when everyone knew that there were differences. There are differences, and there will always be differences, but they do not concern the main policies. When there are such differences we should sit down and discuss them and resolve them.

[Matar] There were such differences over Lebanon.
[Musa] Now everyone hopes that Lebanon will be able to put the old bad conditions behind them and move forward. We are all with Lebanon in that.

[Matar] Much has been said to the effect that Resolution 425 is separate from the peace conference, even though Lebanon will attend the conference.
[Musa] But it is an integrated process, because Lebanon has direct problems with the Israelis and has general problems, bearing in mind that Israel is a neighboring state. So these two factors could interact in the direction of the peace process to ensure Lebanon's sovereignty and security and Israeli nonintervention in its affairs. The direct bilateral differences between the two countries could then be resolved under Resoslution 425. Because Lebanon is an Arab state, it is linked to Resolution 242 and the arrangements that will be made on the basis of that resolution, including Israeli withdrawal and noninterference in Lebanon.

[Matar] That is required before joining the peace process.
[Musa] No. That is not a precondition, before or after. That would mean going into essential details that we

have no right to go into. I say that Resolution 425 defines specific issues for settlement between Lebanon and Israel, as a direct result of the recent Lebanese crisis, whereas Resolution 242 involves Lebanon from the angle of Arab-Israeli relations, of which Lebanon is a part.

[Matar] The negotiations will be based on Resolution 242. Will Resolution 425 be on the negotiating table?
[Musa] No, but it will be on the table of negotiations concerning direct relations between Lebanon and Israel. There is nothing to prevent Israel and Lebanon from talking on the basis of Resolution 425, but the peace process is about Resolution 242 alone.

[Matar] How could Lebanon go to the peace conference to negotiate with Israel without discussing Resolution 425?
[Musa] That is up to Lebanon and the way it conducts its negotiations with the Israelis. Resolution 425 is essential. The two resolutions complement one another. One does not cancel out the other.

[Matar] It has been said that Lebanon has sought Egyptian aid for the Lebanese Army.
[Musa] We are ready to cooperate with Lebanon in every way that ensures its stability. I will not add to that.

[Matar] What about the Damascus Declaration?
[Musa] It is there.

[Matar] But?
[Musa] No buts. The Damascus Declaration ministers will meet within five weeks in Egypt to discuss its implementation.

[Matar] What, then, is the role of Egypt and Syria in Gulf security? It is on that matter that many differences, disagreements, claims, and interpretations appear. What is the true situation?

[Musa] The Damascus Declaration establishes and legalizes security cooperation among a number of Arab states which joined hands in tackling the crisis resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. That grouping still exists and was regulated by the Damascus Declaration. It deals with the security of a part of the Arab world, namely, the Gulf.

When the situation deteriorated, Egypt and Syria were among the first to participate in the liberation of Kuwait, along with the other Gulf states. These states are not only committed, they demonstrated their effectiveness when the situation deteriorated. If the situation detriorates again, the Damascus Declaration provides the legitimacy and the mechanism for action in such cases. It also legalizes and provides the mechanism for cooperation and further enhancement of that cooperation among these states with a view to establishing the desired stability in the region.

[Matar] In other words, there will be no permanent protective presence for the Egyptian or Syrian forces.
[Musa] That is not a condition.

[Matar] The mere mention of the Egyptian or Syrian role affects certain arrangements in the region.
[Musa] The Egyptian and Syrian roles are no substitute for the Gulf role. They fall within the context of the Gulf role and of cooperation with the Gulf states who shoulder the basic responsibility of defense and of defining their concept of self-defense.

[Matar] The Gulf role in its Arab sense or...?
[Musa] The Gulf role in its Arab sense. The problem began originally when one Arab state invaded another. The Arab crisis interacted with the international crisis and Arab legitimacy interacted with international legitimacy. The fact remains, however, that the matter concerns the security of a part of the Arab world. That is what gives the Damascus Declaration its framework and objectives. We are talking about a crisis in a part of the Arab world where international forces interacted. The allied Arab states were part of that, so they got together and announced the Damascus Declaration and shouldered their responsibilities.

[Matar] What I wanted to broach was Iran's role in particular, considering the geographical factor.
[Musa] We never say that Iran's role should be ignored.

[Matar] How could its role be defined?
[Musa] It could be done through understanding and an exchange of views. That is, we do not seek to ignore Iran but, by the same token, Iran should understand that the Arab role is important and that the Egyptian role cannot be ignored. Egypt does not aim to ignore Iran's role, but everything within limits and within the right framework; everything within the realm of reason and possibility, within a framework of understanding.

Egypt cannot possibly overlook the importance of Gulf security as part of Arab security. That is where the responsibility of the Arab states comes in and other responsibilities are excluded. Since there are interlinked responsibilities and since the world itself is interlinked and since the Arab world is not a separate island, we cannot say that Iran has no interest. Not at all. We can heed Iran's interest and we can respect it and deal with it through consultation, calm thinking, and calm talking.

[Matar] From that angle, we can talk about the U.S. role and the British role.
[Musa] Yes, the Arab world is not an independent island. Arab problems and Arab legitimacy are interlinked with international problems and legitimacy. There was a U.S. role, a British role, a French role, and an international role. We should not be like ostriches.

[Matar] We have heard about Omani mediation between Egypt and Iran.
[Musa] It is not a question of mediation. There is a framework for a dialogue about Iran's role, wishes, and concept. We are prepared to listen to all that, but we, Egypt, cannot ignore certain fundamental points when talking about regional security. We are talking about Arab security. In Arab security there is an Arab role. Egypt has an essential role in that, and so have Syria and

the other Arab states, but when we talk about regional security, we then take these geographical factors into consideration. That must be understood.

We must not completely separate Arab security from regional security, but for the two to be linked and interlinked, there must be understanding.

[Matar] There were bilateral problems between Egypt and Iran.
[Musa] Yes.

[Matar] Do they still exist?
[Musa] They still exist. We hope to be able to contain them.

[Matar] In other words, Iran is still supporting extremist groups in Egypt?
[Musa] I will not go into the details of that subject. I say that there are problems and they are not over yet, and that everyone must make efforts to resolve them.

[Matar] What prevents the improvement of these relations today?
[Musa] There is nothing to prevent the improvement of these relations. What prevents an improvement are the unnecessary statements that are made. We hope that we will transcend the phase of unnecessary statements and begin a serious phase of a confirmed common desire to move toward understanding. We are ready.

[Matar] What steps are required?
[Musa] I will not discuss the required steps. I will leave that to diplomatic efforts.

[Matar] Although the international community still does not trust the Iraqi regime, you are calling for an end to the international blockade against Iraq.
[Musa] It is important to us that the Iraqi people not live under the threat of famine and under a threat to their lives, because the Iraqi people are a fraternal Arab people linked to the Egyptian people throughout history. Therefore we are prepared to do anything in the interest of the Iraqi people, but the main point here is that the Iraqi regime must respect the Security Council resolutions so that we can alleviate the Iraqi people's suffering.

[Matar] Do you believe that the Iraqi regime respects these resolutions?
[Musa] Much has been said in Baghdad. I have recently heard assurances emanating from Baghdad emphasizing that Baghdad will respect these resolutions. I hope that is true.

[Matar] And that the siege of Iraq will be finally lifted?
[Musa] According to what the Security Council decides on the basis of adherence to its resolutions. Respect for international legitimacy is very important.

[Matar] Is Saddam Husayn's survival also important?
[Musa] I do not interfere in that matter. That is a matter for the Iraqi people to decide according to their needs.

On Israeli Settlements Issue

PM2509103091 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 24 Sep 91 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by unidentified correspondent in New York on 22 September]

[Text] [SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] How would you assess the Palestinian position on Washington's attempts to convene the peace conference? Why do some Palestinian leaders consider the U.S. assurances inadequate?

[Musa] That is a matter that concerns them, and they are currently studying it. Obviously they want the largest possible number of assurances in certain forms. But the matter is still at the stage of coordinated consultations before the conference is convened. The U.S. assurances are an important element in boosting moves toward the peace process. Numerous statements have been issued on that subject, but the important thing is what is taking place within the framework of consultations—not the public statements.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] The Israelis say that they have in fact complied with Resolution 242 by returning Sinai to Egypt, and that they are not compelled to return any territory to the Palestinians, Syria, or Jordan. What is your comment?

[Musa] No, no. That is untrue. Resolution 242 addresses all the fronts, including the West Bank and Gaza—the West Bank including East Jerusalem—and the Golan, too. That position is unsound and illegal. Resolution 242 does not concern Sinai alone, but concerns all the territories occupied on 5 June 1967.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] How will the Arabs and Washington respond to this procrastination in the next stage of endeavors?

[Musa] There is a recognized, standardized [muqannan] world interpretation on which the views of the entire world agree, and this will be the basis. The basis is Resolution 242, in its meaning and indeed its text, that is, the inadmissibility of seizing territories by war. The resolution referred not to the seizure of Sinai by war, but to all the territories occupied. So the Israeli position here is unacceptable.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] The Israelis and their supporters say that President Bush's linkage of the freeze on settlements to the conference and Baker's notification to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that Washington approves of Damascus' demand for the return of the Golan to Syrian sovereignty undermine the Israeli position on the eve of the conference. What is your comment?

[Musa] The important thing is that the U.S. position is that the Golan is an occupied territory. Our position and the entire international position is that the Golan is an occupied territory. So it must be returned so that peace can be established.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What is your opinion of their claim that this undermines their negotiating position at the conference?

[Musa] They must negotiate these matters on the basis of Resolution 242.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Israel is talking about the peace process, but at the same time is still stepping up the building of settlements and the campaign to empty the Arab territory of its owners.

[Musa] We demand an end to the settlement process, because it is harmful to peace, obstructs peace, and could jeopardize the entire peace conference.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] In your view, is this a fixed Israeli position, or can progress in the peace process halt and reverse Israel's settlement policy?

[Musa] We hope that the progress in the peace process will lead to a halting and reversal of Israel's settlement policy.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] According to Baker, Washington is trying to call for negotiations on two axes: Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli. Do you support negotiations on two axes in this form?

[Musa] The Palestinian issue is the crux of the problem in the Middle East, which is why progress on it would affect the other axis positively.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] If the Palestinian side refuses to participate, will the other parties be willing to participate and achieve progress with the other issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Musa] No, no. We hope that that will not happen. The Palestinians' participation is fundamental and of prime importance. I am confident that they will participate in the conference.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Do you expect Washington to issue invitations to the parties to the conflict to attend a peace conference if differences continue over details about convening the conference?

[Musa] I believe that there is still sufficient time to overcome the differences over these details, and the United States is, in fact, making meritorious efforts in this regard. I hope that these efforts will lead to a positive result.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Does that mean that it will not be forced to issue these invitations before an agreement is reached over the details, as some people here speculate?

[Musa] The final agreement on the details will take shape now and within the next four or five weeks.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What if the agreement falters?

[Musa] We hope that it will not falter.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] How do you interpret the U.S. President's recent position on the question of financial guarantees to Israel? What are your expectations of the effect of that position on the peace process in the Middle East?

[Musa] We do not interfere in that problem. But the position itself—President Bush's position—is important and will boost the peace process. It is in the interests of the peace process with regard to all the parties.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] But many people are now talking about the U.S. Administration's endeavor to abolish the UN General Assembly resolution of 1975 which equates Zionism with racism. Many people expect President Bush in his speech tomorrow (yesterday) to urge members of the international organizations to abolish the resolution. What will Egypt's position be if Bush makes such a call in his speech?

[Musa] We will deal with such a call then. I cannot reply to something that is still confined to press reports and that has not been announcedofficially.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What is your opinion of the Iraqi position on the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, especially with regard to the elimination of its destructive weapons, the demarcation of Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders, and the return of Kuwaiti prisoners?

[Musa] Our opinion is that Iraq must fully implement all the Security Council resolutions to avoid the problems that might result from its failure to comply with them and also to avoid obstructing progress toward peace. We hope that it will cooperate with the Security Council in order to bolster efforts to improve the Iraqi people's position. With regard to the Kuwaiti prisoners, Iraq undoubtedly ought to return them. This is absolutely essential.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] The Security Council has started its consultations for selecting a new UN secretary general, and the Arab world is following this question with special interest because one of its figures—namely Dr. Butrus Ghali—is among the most notable candidates for the post. Are you optimistic about his chances of winning? What truth is there in the reports that some African states were annoyed at Egypt's entry into that competition?

[Musa] We, God willing, are optimistic about Butrus Ghali's nomination. As for the African states, this is untrue. This is because it is clear that the African states decided on a list of candidates which includes Dr. Butrus Ghali. There should not be any annoyance on the Africans' part because he is the most notable of the African candidates and his election will be the election of an

African candidate. We are confident that Dr. Butrus Ghali has all the qualifications required of a secretary general.

More on Peace Process

PM2509111891 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Sep 91 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Matar] Let us begin with the peace process. What point has it reached and what, in your view, is the general atmosphere?

[Musa] The peace process is at a very active stage of consultations, contacts, and drafting. We hope the process will begin in earnest in October, as intended months ago.

[Matar] Will it begin in October? We have heard that it will begin in November.

[Musa] We hope so. A November date would not be a postponement. When we say October, it does not necessarily mean a specific date in October. There is no difference between 31 October and 1 November. What is important is that the negotiations begin on the target date or thereabout. Why? Because it is in everyone's interest that the negotiations and the peace process begin quickly and that no time be wasted in postponements and obstructions, particularly because any obstruction of the peace process would be in the interest of the settlements process, would reinforce the seizure of territory, and so forth. So, it would be better to start the peace process today rather than tomorrow.

[Matar] But the obvious differences are not encouraging with regard to meeting the target date.

[Musa] Of course there are still differences. This is no easy matter. It is a complex process, but there must be a start, and it should come about through the determination of all parties and through the intensive efforts of the United States in particular. We hope that this will indeed lead to the start of the peace process soon.

[Matar] The main obstacles are Palestinian. The [Palestine] National Council [PNC] is today discussing the peace process. What are your expectations?

[Musa] We hope that the PNC will take the peace process most seriously, on the basis of its necessity and on the basis of the definite Arab interest in ending Israel's occupation of Arab territory and the settlements process and in fulfilling the Palestinian people's rights.

[Matar] The Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] have rejected the peace process on the present terms.

[Musa] We hear every view expressed by any party, particularly because there are some leaderships on the other side—that is, the Israeli side—who are opposed to the peace process. What is important is the final decision of the majority of the political trends, in other words, the main Israeli trend and the main Palestinian trend. I am confident that the main trends on both sides support the peace process.

[Matar] Do you believe that the PNC might agree to a peace conference?

[Musa] We hope so, God willing.

[Matar] Some Palestinian tendencies—even those around Yasir 'Arafat—are not optimistic.

[Musa] There are many who are not optimistic. Experience makes some people suspicious, particularly in view of the continuing settlement activity and the inappropriate Israeli statements. In our view, however, the peace process remains a major process and should be given a full, full, chance before we pass judgement.

[Matar] How could the Palestinians, the PNC, and the PLO agree to the peace process without the PLO or the Palestinians outside the occupied territory having anything to do with it?

[Musa] The matter should not be viewed from that angle. It should be viewed from the more general angle. It is a process to end the Israeli occupation and it is a matter that concerns all the Palestinian people, both inside and outside, leaders and people, popular trends, and different organizations and views. The peace process concerns the PLO as well as the entire Palestinian people.

Furthermore, we should look ahead, and not view the situation within a certain circumstantial framework. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Addresses U.S. Jewish Leaders

NC2509201691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 25 Sep (MENA)—At Brenston University in New York today Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with leaders of the American Jewish community who represent the most important American Jewish organizations.

Minister Musa delivered a speech in which he reviewed the efforts to convene a peace conference in October and the need for the leaders of the Jewish community to exert efforts to persuade the Israeli Government to stop building settlements to give the conference a real opportunity to achieve the desired peace between Israel, the Palestinians, and the Arab states.

Musa stressed that the basis for peace is UN Security Council Resolution 242, which provides the legitimate framework for the Egyptian-Israeli peace. The construction of settlements threatens this resolution and its most important pillars, Musa added, namely, land for peace.

The Egyptian foreign minister noted the precedent set by former Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin when he stopped building settlements during the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations which resulted in the peace treaty.

All the parties will benefit from the peace process, Musa noted, and Israel could be the biggest beneficiary because the desired peace is a comprehensive peace based on normal relations among all the region's peoples. He also noted that the world is experiencing a new era based on peace, dialogue, the repudiation of violence, and legitimacy.

Musa lauded the Arabs' readiness for peace at a time when the Israeli Government is continuing to build settlements, is not giving enough of a response, and is reiterating its noes: No to Jerusalem, no to the formation of a Palestinian delegation, and no to halting the settlements.

The community leaders asked about the type of peace that currently exists between Egypt and Israel. Peace exists between the two countries, Musa said, but what affects the warmth of peace are the Israeli practices. Egypt is an Arab state and will, therefore, never abandon the Palestinian issue.

'Amr Musa also referred to President Husni Mubarak's proposal to end the Arab boycott of Israel in return for Israel's halting the building of settlements.

A comment was made by one of those present that Jordan could become the Palestinian state, saying that transferring the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank to Jordan would be a good idea and that the Jordan River would be a natural border. Musa said that these are the views of extremists and are unacceptable.

Government To Supply Weapons to Lebanon

NC2609105191 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 24 Sep 91 p 1, 11

[Text] Cairo, Amin Radwan's dispatch—Reliable sources in Cairo have reported that Egypt has agreed to meet Lebanon's military needs in weapons and military scholarships. Egypt's approval followed Lebanese-Egyptian contacts last week. AL-SAFIR has learned that most of the weapons will be used for training and tactical purposes in defensive and offensive operations. The deal includes armored cars, long- and medium-range artillery, and other types of military equipment.

The sources added that Lebanon is trying to obtain relatively advanced weapons, including flail tanks and some modern explosives produced by the Arab Organization for Industrialization [AOI] and the Egyptian Ministry of War. The sources noted that the first phase of the weapons required by Lebanon cost more than $60 million and added that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak instructed the chairman of the AOI board of directors to make special allowance for Lebanon's needs in AOI's production.

The sources expect that AOI will start producing the weapons that Lebanon needs during the first quarter of 1992. The sources went on to say that Egypt will grant Lebanon 120 scholarships in Nasir Military Academy. A number of military personnel have already arrived in Cairo for training courses that will last between four and six months.

The source said that a Lebanese military attache has been appointed at the Lebanese Embassy in Cairo to facilitate coordination between Egypt and Lebanon in all military fields, particularly regarding the Egyptian military experts who will visit Lebanon for training purposes.

Assembly Committee Supports Resolution 3379

NC2609114291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—The People's Assembly's committee on Arab affairs has expressed deep concern over Israel's persistence in pursuing its settlement building policy and settling Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories, despite international efforts to begin peace negotiations.

The committee has issued a statement saying that it has been closely following Jewish pressure groups' attempts to abrogate UN Resolution 3379 dated November 1975, which considers Zionism a racist movement.

The committee appealed to all peace-loving states to oppose the abrogation of this resolution and to pressure Israel into abandoning the racist policy it practices against the Palestinian people, particularly those inside the occupied Arab territories, so that peaceful coexistence can prevail among all the region's people.

The committee also renewed its demand that the international community subject to inspection the weapons of mass destruction in all countries of the region, including Israel, at the same time.

Bush Request on Resolution 3379 Questioned

NC2609074391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—In its today's issue, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR (?asks) what evidence the United States submitted to the UN General Assembly when President George Bush asked its members to rescind Resolution 3379 equating Zionism with racism, which was issued in 1975 by overwhelming majority.

The newspaper also asks whether Israel has halted its brutal practices and arbitrary measures against the Palestinians in the occupied territories—practices which are no different from those pursued by the apartheid regime in South Africa for 50 years. AL-AKHBAR says that the UN Security Council has issued hundreds of resolutions denouncing Israel's policy and accusing it of instituting apartheid. The seizure of Arab lands, the expulsion of their inhabitants, and the settlement of immigrants in their place all constitute an ugly form of racial discrimination.

The newspaper says that, if Israel's rulers had even slightly modified their measures, which are imbued with racist feelings, the U.S. President would have been justified in his call on the UN General Assembly to annul its resolution. Concluding, AL-AKHBAR asks: On what basis is Bush asking the international community to rescind its decision?

Settlements Must Be Addressed Before Conference

NC2509074991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 25 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Concerning the obstacles that Israel is posing for the convocation of a peace conference, the newspaper AL-AHRAM writes: No one has so far been able to understand how Israel's request to the U.S. Administration regarding the extension of approximately $10 million in loan guarantees for settling new immigrants can be separated from the issue of peace or the peace conference in the Middle East.

The paper adds: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has been constantly reiterating that the two issues are not linked. He maintains that the loan guarantees are a humanitarian request, but the conference is a political issue. There have been indications that U.S. officials have been expressing similar opinions—probably to motivate Israel to attend the conference. The separation of the two issues, however, is a ploy which does not deceive the average Arab.

The paper concludes: This is a serious matter, and every attempt to belittle the importance of that intransigent stance or to overlook its implications for the occupied territories is an attempt to ignore reality. The argument that the settlement issue can be taken care of during the negotiations within the conference—which could last for years until the status quo is irreversible—amounts to an effort to avoid the most pressing issue. The issue of settlements is a potentially explosive one and should not be resolved by time or the whims of the negotiators.

Peace Conference Without Palestinians Rejected

NC2509163791 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 22 Sep 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Two Ideas in the U.S. Court"]

[Text] Members of the U.S. delegation accompanying U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in his latest tour touched upon several ideas on the peace process. We note two issues which we consider to be the most serious. First, calling for a peace conference without the Palestinians if they insist on their position on the issues of Jerusalem and an independent Palestinian state. It is well known that the Palestinians want a representative of Arab Jerusalem in the Palestinian negotiating delegation, be it independent or within a Jordanian delegation, so that it will be clear from the outset that Jerusalem is part of the occupied Arab land. The Palestinians also want the negotiations's result to be the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip even if it would enter into a confederation with Jordan as soon as it is established.

The Palestinians believe that this is the essence of the right to self-determination that the United States seems prepared to recognize for the Palestinians through the hard and long negotiating process that is about to start. The United States agrees that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territory, but, at the same time believes that Jerusalem should remain united and its final future be decided through negotiations. They also refuse to recognize that the right to self-determination entails the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

This, in our assessment, is the crux of the disagreement between the United States and the Palestinians, a disagreement that has not yet been resolved and which has prompted the U.S. side to hint at the possibility of convening the peace conference without Palestinian participation. This idea is rejected by the Arabs because it runs counter to a historic reconciliation that is required between Israel and the Arabs. Any historic reconciliation would be meaningless without solving the Palestinian people's problem and restoring their legitimate national rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination as is generally acknowledged in international law and international precedents.

The second idea floated by the delegation accompanying James Baker in his latest tour is extending invitations to convene the peace conference without waiting for an agreement among the parties on the essence of the negotiating process. This idea might also embarrass the Arab side more than Israel because Israel is interested in direct negotiations rather than in a sound definition of the framework and substance of the negotiations that will preserve Arab rights. The Arab party focuses on defining the framework and substance of the negotiations because that constitutes the first step to preserve the minimum of usurped Arab rights.

Since it is almost impossible to ignore the Palestinians completely, because this would empty the required negotiations process of its substance, the Palestinian side must not rely on that but must seek a solution that brings views closer within a context of utmost possible Arab coordination with Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. At the same time, the Arab side should explain its position to both the U.S. and Soviet parties together so that it will not be surprised by an invitation to the conference without defining the framework and goals of the negotiations. Thus, it can be said that these ideas currently circulated in the United States are rejected by the Arabs because they are not in their interests.

Columnist Sees 'Difficult, Cruel' Talks Ahead

NC2509204391 Cairo SABAH AL-KHAYR in Arabic 26 Sep 91 p 30

["Lost in Print" column by Louis Jiryis: "The Price of Peace"]

[Text] If Mr. Baker's trips and President Bush's firm stand against Zionist pressures in the United States bear fruit and a peace conference is held in October, this will not mean the beginning of a solution as in the Camp David days. What it will mean is the beginning of a difficult process of negotiation that will require utmost Arab and international efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict—a conflict that began nearly half a century ago and has been marked by wars, fedayeen operations, assassinations, a splendid intifadah, and numerous setbacks.

When we look at the history of the Palestinian issue, we find that wars gave Israel golden opportunities to acquire territory. The fedayeen operations enhanced Israel's chances of obtaining aid. The Gulf war also enabled Israel to request a $10-billion loan guarantee and much military hardware.

The only time Israel has made concessions was when it sat at the negotiating table: Sinai was liberated and peace was established between Egypt and Israel. Will the negotiations that follow the peace conference result in the return of the Golan Heights to Syria and the restoration of the West Bank and Gaza so that they might form the nucleus of a Palestinian state?

An observer of the changes taking place in the occupied territories can see the beginning of a problem that did not exist when we invited a Palestinian delegation to join the Camp David negotiations in 1979. There were no settlements then and no Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. The population of the West Bank was 850,000. Over the years it has risen to approximately 1.5 million. In the past few years, Israel and international Zionism have embarked on an energetic settlement policy to make the original inhabitants flee Israeli repression and seek a future far from Israeli terrorism. Residents from Gaza found a place in Kuwait. Others fled to other Gulf countries or to Europe, the United States, Canada, and Australia.

International Zionism has succeeded in persuading Soviet Jews and Jews from such places as Ethiopia to emigrate to Israel. When they arrive, Israel builds settlements in the occupied territories. According to current declared estimates, Israel will receive more than 1 million immigrants this year. This is why it is requesting a $10-billion loan to build settlements.

What will happen while the flood of immigrants continues and the delay that President Bush requested for the loans guarantee is a mere four months?

This is the new situation in the occupied territories. President Yasir 'Arafat is demanding self-determination for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Certainly self-determination will be exercised through a UN-supervised referendum. According to reports, this will be held five years after a peace treaty is signed, if one is signed at all.

If we wait five more years for self-determination, the situation in the West Bank and Gaza will become even more complicated. The number of original inhabitants will be approximately the same as the new arrivals who will have been brought there by immigration and settlement building. The numbers might be equal. You can imagine what the results of a referendum in which the original inhabitants and the new settlers vote together will be.

This situation makes me ask:

—Do the written guarantees that the United States is offering include halting Jewish immigration from Russia and other countries until after the referendum on self-determination is held?

—Do the written guarantees call for holding the referendum immediately and restricting it to the original Arab inhabitants who are living under occupation and whose splendid intifadah was witnessed by the entire world?

The same questions can be asked about the Golan Heights and every other occupied territory where settlements are being built.

It has been decided to avoid discussing the Jerusalem issue for the time being. What will its future be? Will Israel accept its internationalization?

Despite these questions and the expected difficulty of the negotiations, I welcome the U.S. efforts to convene a peace conference. I do this not only because negotiating with Israel is in Arab interest, but because it is the only current choice. There may never another chance for the Arab countries and Israel to go the negotiating table. Furthermore, the Arab nation, including its oil-producing states, are today incapable of armed struggle following the catastrophe which Saddam Husayn brought upon us.

By confronting Zionist pressures inside the United States, President Bush reminds us of the stand adopted by President Eisenhower in 1956 when he confronted Israel and forced it to withdraw.

The Arab-Israeli negotiations will be difficult, cruel, and painful but they will be a much better choice than maintaining the Palestinian issue's current frozen status.

Mubarak Request for GCC Aid Reported

NC2409150391 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 23 Sep 91 p 43

[Text] AL-SHIRA' has learned from responsible economic sources in Cairo that Egyptian President Mubarak asked Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], to attempt to expedite the economic assistance the Gulf states promised Egypt during the last Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] meeting.

Shaykh Zayid promised President Mubarak to respond quickly to the request and to release the assistance, estimated to be $2 billion, before year's end. Zayid stressed that the UAE will also make a large contribution separate from the GCC assistance.

Egypt is not obtaining any new loans now, and all Egyptian ministries have been instructed not to make any new loans unless they are certain that the recipient will be able to repay them.

Probe Into Drug Charges Against Deputies

NC2509161891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—In the People's Assembly today, deputies decided to refer the 10 members suspected of narcotics involvement to the socialist public prosecutor office for investigation. The investigations should be completed within one month subject to Article 360 of the People's Assembly's regulations, which demands the lifting of parliamentary immunity of any member against whom such accusations are substantiated.

A report by the People's Assembly's Ethics Committee recommended that four members be referred to the prosecutor and that the cases of the other six be shelved. After a lengthy session that lasted four hours under the chairmanship of Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur, the People's Assembly decided to refer all 10 deputies to the public prosecutor's office.

Assembly Lifts Deputy's Immunity

NC2609040091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1523 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—In its session today, the People's Assembly agreed to lift the parliamentary immunity of 'Ayid Sulayman, deputy for Southern Sinai constituency, at the request of the socialist public prosecutor. The deputy will be questioned on charges of graft.

Muslim Figure Criticizes Policy on Israel

NC2609090591 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Sep 91 p 5

[Article by Mustafa Mashhur: "This Normalization With the Zionist Enemy is Rejected"]

[Excerpts] Yes. The Muslim Egyptian people reject this normalization, both visible and hidden, with the Zionist enemy. It is a source of profound evil, for corruption and evil permeate every cell in the bodies of these Zionists, who bear no trace of goodwill toward others and who are capable of resorting to the most merciless methods in achieving their malignant ends. They are ready to sacrifice their morals, honor—and even their lives—if necessary.

These Zionists are trying to completely destroy the Arabs' pride, dignity, morals, production, and other components of power so that they can take control and set up their state from the Nile to the Euphrates—and even to Medina. It is both condemned and rejected that Jews are given facilities when they enter Egypt, while denying them to many people from our Islamic states. This flirtation between the National Democratic Party and the Zionist enemy and their exchange of visits are unacceptable and constitute a blatant defiance of the feelings of Egypt's Muslim people. This normalization, both flagrant and concealed, must fully stop to keep the evil at bay.

We have read reports that a 30-member Israeli soccer team from Tel Aviv has been camping out at Ismailia's Etap Hotel and has been practicing at the hotel's secondary field under strict security. What are you afraid of? Undoubtedly, you must know that the Egyptian people are not happy with such activity. It is being said that the Israeli team is expected to play a friendly game with the Canal Club, a first division team. Another serious and even more horrible piece of news is the report that, over the past eight months, the Egyptian Government exported more than 60,000 cubic meters of prime sand bricks to the Zionist entity to be used in building settlements in the Arab territories, where the inhabitants are being driven out and replaced by Jewish immigrants. This immense conspiracy was carried out by a government-owned company in the public sector, which transported the bricks using some government heavy trucks as well as several public sector trucks.

Our Palestinian brothers are being killed, displaced, tortured, and expelled. The enemy is settling Jews in their place, and our government is helping it in this effort. How can we describe this disgraceful act? Is not Palestine a member of the Arab League? What happened to the charters and agreements?

We hear and read reports—the ones that are published; still more are unpublished—about how some of the Zionist enemy's citizens have been smuggling narcotics and forged dollars. The door nevertheless remains wide open for them while it is shut in the face of the sincere Islamicists. [passage omitted]

These are some of the visible manifestations of normalization; what is hidden is far greater, and it will be revealed as time goes by. The real face of the Zionist enemy then will be exposed, and the conspiracy against Palestine will become apparent. The enemy, the United States, and some deceived Arabs thought that this issue would be put to rest with the so-called peace conference, through which the United States plans to convince the Arab states to recognize the enemy and normalize their relations with it.

We have seen how the Zionist enemy's prime minister, with extreme insolence and arrogance, says that not a single inch of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem will be abandoned, and insists on building settlements and on bringing in Jewish immigrants. He even demanded more than $10 billion in loans from the United States. Bush then looks like a hero when he refuses to meet the Israeli request and postpones making a decision on it for four months, to avoid obstructing the peace conference. Then he threatens to exercise his veto power if Congress does not go along with him. He thus appears as if he were siding with the Arabs against the enemy—which is not the case. The whole objective is to lure them into attending this suspicious conference.

If you examine the Zionist enemy's policy, which is backed by the United States and to which our Arab states are submissive, it becomes clear that this conference will not achieve peace. As for our Muslim Arab peoples, they will not accept such a situation and will continue to resist this policy regardless of the agreements or treaties concluded. The Muslims know that the enemy does not honor any treaties or obligations. The peoples' will not weaken before these schemes no matter how long it takes and how much sacrifice is required, as history has shown that the will of the people triumphs in the end. [passage omitted]

We demand a new constitution based on God's tolerant sharia which eliminates all remnants of the outmoded socialist regimes that only brought us calamity and devastation. The policy of suppressing opinion and ignoring the calls for reforming the constitution is unwise and is not the effective remedy for the accumulated maladies afflicting our country. [passage omitted]

'Amr Musa Meets Argentine, PRC Officials

NC2409105591 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met yesterday with his Argentine counterpart Domingo Cavallo and discussed bilateral relations and ways to broaden them in all fields.

Minister Musa also met with PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. The two officials discussed the efforts to hold a Mideast peace conference and the role that both countries can play in convening the conference and getting the negotiations started among the parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Omani Minister Leaves Cairo Following Visit

NC2409121691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0942 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo this morning to return to his country following a one-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, accompanied Bin-'Alawi to the airport.

Butrus Ghali Returns From Foreign Tour

NC2509181191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1714 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations, returned to Cairo this evening after a tour of Britain, France, the United States, and Canada that lasted approximately two weeks. [passage omitted]

Israeli Arrested in Tabah for Possessing Bullets

NC2609190191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1806 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Israeli names as transliterated]

[Text] Tabah, 26 Sep (MENA)—Police at Tabah's land exit point today arrested Israeli Kraf Trof Efrayim as he entered the country with 27 live bullets in his possession. He was hiding the bullets under the front seat of his car. Brigadier General Hasan al-Ajhurwi, assistant interior minister and director of ports security, ordered the Israeli man referred to prosecution for investigation.

Meanwhile, the prosecution has released Israeli national Johar Lezi, who was arrested at the Tabah exit point two days ago with 230 live bullets in his possession, with a 300-Egyptian-pound fine and ordered him deported to Israel.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Delegation From Chad

LD2609155691 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received brothers Foreign Minister Ahmed Soungui, Interior Minister Abbas Koty, and Deputy Interior Minister (Kasif Hadi) in Chad as envoys from Chadian President Idriss Deby.

The Chadian delegation conveyed to the brother leader of the revolution a written message from President Idriss Deby, in which Deby expressed his trust in the brotherly relations existing between the two fraternal peoples and countries.

During this audience, the Chadian delegation hailed the leading role undertaken by al-Fatih revolution and its leader, Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi, for the sake of supporting and backing the people's freedom and their liberation from colonialist hegemony.

The brother leader of the revolution emphasized the political support of the Great Jamahiriyah for Chad. He highlighted the deeply rooted fraternal relations that bind the two brotherly peoples and countries.

This audience was attended by the brother secretary of the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

Convening of Basic People's Congresses Decreed

LD2009142291 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The Secretariat of the General People's Congress has issued a decree on summoning the Basic People's Congresses to convene. Here now follows the full text of the decree:

The Secretariat of the General People's Congress, following cognizance of law No. 9 of 1984 on the organization of the Basic People's Congresses, the General People's Congress law No. 10 of 1987 on the issuance of the general list of people's congresses, and the General People's Congress law No. 1 of 1990 on choosing the secretariat of the General People's Congress, has decided the following:

Article 1: The masses of the Basic People's Congresses are summoned to convene on Sunday 13 Rabi' al-Awwal 1401 following the Prophet's death, corresponding to 22 September 1991, in their first ordinary session for the year 1401 following the Prophet's death corresponding to 1991.

Article 2: This decree comes into force from the date of its issuance, and should be published in the Gazette and by various mass media organs.

People's Congresses Resume Sessions

LD2509220191 Tripoli JANA in English 0816 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Tripoli September 25 JANA—In confirmation of the direct people's democracy and to consolidate the authority of the people, the basic peoples congresses in various regions of Great Jamahariyah resumed yesterday evening their sessions for the first ordinary round for this year 1401 FDM, coinciding with 1991.

The masses of the basic people's congresses concentrated on debating local issues and the question of the people's committees not implementing the resolutions of the basic people's congresses.

People's Committee Sends Note to Arab League

LD2309192991 Tripoli JANA in English 1656 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Tripoli, al-Fatih [September] 23, JANA/ARAB MAGHREB UNION POOL—The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau has sent a message to the secretary general of the Arab League regarding news reported by press agencies that the Zionist enemy was exerting intense efforts to expatriate the Tamil Jews and other Jews in India to occupied Palestine. The secretary of the people's committee alerted in his message that such efforts, if they were successful, will constitute, beside the immigration of Soviet Jews and the Falasha Jews, a serious threat and massive danger for the Palestinian people and will aggravate their sufferings. It will also press the Zionist enemy towards more atrocities against the Palestinians, to tighten the noose in order that the enemy will achieve the end he was seeking, and that is the evacuation of Palestine from all of its Arab residents.

The secretary of the people's committee urged the Arab League and its secretary general to take all necessary steps to confront this growing threat, which is a danger for the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

Sudan

Army Offensive Predicted for 30 Sep in Darfur

AB2609215591 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Is Sudan's Darfur Province going to experience troubled days? According to the opposition, there is no doubt about it. It has accused the Sudanese Government of [word indistinct] and extermination in this province bordering Chad, Raphael Mbadinga.

[Mbadinga] According to opposition groups, General Umar al-Bashir's government has deployed most of its forces to face the popular uprising that has spread in that region. The Sudanese opposition has, in turn, been gearing up and warned the international community and regional countries that Khartoum plans to launch operations in 11 spots of that area of trouble as of 30 September.

The National Democratic Rally contends that the military and Islamic powers in Khartoum have finally decided to adopt the scorched earth policy against Christian and Animist resistance in southern Sudan, a region once considered the country's granary and hope for [words indistinct]. Trade transactions and practices are today in the hands of armed gangs, an expression used by the authorities to mean dissidents. The whole region is now cordoned off by the Army. Khartoum, I quote, has decided to do away with armed gangs, which according to the Sudanese authorities have killed about 100 people over the past few months.

The Sudanese opposition has drawn the attention of the international community to the violation of human rights in Sudan. Any opponent to the regime [words indistinct] will be subjected to physical and moral [words indistinct] applied to people accused of plotting against local institutions.

The Sudanese National Democratic Rally has also denounced acts of brutalities at Khartoum University.

RCC Member Meets With Visiting Libyan

EA2609180591 Khartoum SUNA in English 0909 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Khartoum, 26th September (SUNA)—Revolution Command Council [RCC] Member General al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir met here yesterday the visiting secretary of the Sudanese-Libyan integration affairs at the Libyan Foreign Liaison Office, Jum'ah al-Fazzani. (?He) said in a press statement that the encounter had tackled the steps taken toward the implementation of the integration leading ultimately to the unity between the two countries and self-sufficiency.

Phase 2 of Ethiopian Soldiers' Repatriation Begins

EA2609150091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Yesterday, the second phase of repatriation resumed for the Ethiopian refugee soldiers who had taken refuge in Sudan after the collapse of the Mengistu regime last May. The number of refugees was about 50,000.

Kuwait

Military Forces on Alert for Possible Action

NC2609145091 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The British newspaper THE GUARDIAN reported today that British combat aircraft have been put on alert to participate in any possible military operation by U.S. forces against Iraq. The newspaper said that Tornado bombers and reconnaissance and spy planes are ready to participate with U.S. forces in implementing the UN program for inspecting Iraqi nuclear weapons.

At the same time, Kuwait has placed its Armed Forces on alert to guard against any possible new Iraqi attack. Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim said that all possible precautionary defense measures to repel any sudden attack have been taken. He added that threats to Gulf security will continue as long as Iraqi President Saddam Husayn remains in power.

Defense Minister Says No to U.S. Bases

PM2609155691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 26 Sep 91 p 4

[Fayhan al-'Utaybi report: "Defense Minister: We Are Not Committed To Purchasing U.S. Arms"]

[Text] Kuwait—Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has emphasized that there will be no U.S. bases in Kuwait "at all" and that the defense cooperation agreement "does not commit us to purchase arms from the United States."

In a statement yesterday the defense minister said that he expects the U.S. personnel in charge of the maintenance of equipment and supplies to be stored in Kuwait to total 300 military experts. He added that "there will be no actual American presence in Kuwait. Such a presence will be in the Gulf region in general."

The defense minister said that the Gulf Cooperation Council states have not yet drawn up the final concept of the Gulf army, which "will be larger than the present 100,000 soldiers." He pointed out that Iraq was still a threat to Kuwait and the region, but that we should not "overestimate the madman, Saddam Husayn, because his regime is now weaker than it was before." He explained that "all the necessary defense precautions have been taken to face any emergency."

Council of Ministers Ratifies Damascus Declaration

LD2509221291 London KUNA in Arabic 1454 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 25 Sep (KUNA)—In its weekly meeting the Council of Ministers, under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, ratified today the final draft of the Damascus Declaration concerning coordination and cooperation among the signatory Arab countries—the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Syria, and Egypt. [passage omitted] The declaration originated from the feelings of brotherhood, solidarity, and the unity of aims and destiny, and the necessity to consolidate Arab capabilities to serve the causes of the Arab nation and preserve its security—within the framework of the aims and principles that agreements and resolutions of the Arab League, Islamic Conference Organization, and United Nations have consolidated. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Radwan [finance minister and minister of state for Council of Ministers' affairs] stated that Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah informed the Council of the positive results of his visit last week to the United States during which he signed the U.S.-Kuwaiti agreement concerning defense cooperation between the two countries. He also informed the Council about the talks he conducted with his U.S. counterpart, which concentrated on bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, developments in the Gulf region, and the means to consolidate peace and stability in it. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Comments on Oil Supply Issue

LD2609092991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0335 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Jeddah, 26 Sep (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, is anxious that the developing countries in Asia and Africa not be harmed by a sudden increase in oil prices or by the taxes that industrial countries levy on oil for one reason or another.

Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, stated this to SPA yesterday evening. He added: "The commitment of the custodian of the two holy mosques was clearly manifested at the beginning of the Gulf crisis when he ordered me immediately to increase production and to speed up its distribution to the markets."

Mr. Nazir said: If it were not for King Fahd's decision and wise approach to raising Saudi production at the right time, the whole world would have suffered a severe economic crisis. The developing countries in particular would have suffered a disaster which could have been difficult to get over.

At the end of his statement he said: For this reason Saudi Arabia is anxious to adopt an economic policy which takes into consideration the interests of the developing countries. The strongest proof of this is the fact that the custodian of the two holy mosques has said on many occasions: "If the opportunity for just development is not given to the developing countries by enabling them to obtain oil at suitable prices and if the industrial countries do not stop piling new tax burdens on oil, then the developing countries in Asia and Africa will continue to suffer through no fault of their own."

Fahd Envoy Cited on Moscow Talks

PM2609085891 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Sami 'Imarah report: "Prince Bandar Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Moscow: Our Support for Soviet Muslims Has Nothing To Do With Politics"]

[Excerpts] Moscow, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan's short visit to Moscow as the envoy of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, attracted great interest from all Soviet official, popular, and media circles. This interest was reflected in the eagerness of head of state Mikhail Gorbachev to receive Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan in his office in the Kremlin on his arrival in Moscow at midday the day before yesterday.

On his meeting with Gorbachev, which took place in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan said in his interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the talks dealt with the various issues of cooperation between the two countries in all fields. [passage omitted]

Prince Bandar emphasized that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, takes an interest in the stability of the Soviet Union, because it affects the stability of the entire world. King Fahd, he said, also takes an interest in the Soviet peoples in general and the Islamic peoples in particular. But he pointed out that this interest does not at all mean any interference in Soviet internal affairs.

Prince Bandar said that the kingdom wants nothing except the prosperity of the Islamic peoples in the Soviet Union and respect for their rights and interests, as is the case with the other Soviet peoples. The aim, he added, is to bolster spiritual ties and to assist with the Soviet Muslims' needs. Also to construct mosques, to publish the glorious Koran, to assist with matters connected with Muslims' performance of pilgrimage, to construct clinics, and to grant scholarships to Saudi universities and educational institutions.

With regard to the Soviet Union's stances, Prince Bandar said that no one can forget the Soviet Union's position during the Gulf crisis, its support for legitimacy, and its confrontation of the aggression. [passage omitted]

With regard to reports that Moscow is preparing to receive the largest ever Saudi economic delegation, Prince Bandar said that academician Yevgeney Primakov, President Gorbachev's special envoy, visited the kingdom accompanied by a large economic delegation representing all establishments and held lengthy talks with the relevant circles. So it will not be strange if a delegation goes to Moscow to return the visit.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT went on to ask about international issues, especially the Middle East and Afghanistan, which Prince Bandar discussed in his talks with President Gorbachev and the many Soviet officials with whom he met. He said that since assuming power in 1985 President Gorbachev has moved positively in the various directions. And he has pursued with his comrade, Eduard Shevardnadze, a foreign policy governed by reason and logic for the sake of serving world peace—which was bound to lead to positive and logical results.

With regard to Soviet thinking about the Middle East and Afghanistan, Prince Bandar said that it is logical and wise and in line with the interests of the peoples of the Middle East region and of Afghanistan.

Prince Bandar expressed his optimism about the efforts being made by all diplomatic circles in connection with these two issues, emphasizing that the Arab parties have done all they can for the sake of achieving peace. He expressed his hope that a settlement based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 would be reached. [passage omitted]

Minister Meets U.S., UK, German Counterparts

LD2709132491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0915 27 Sep 91

[Excerpt] New York, 27 Sep (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister and head of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's delegation to the 46th session of the UN General Assembly, held several meetings last night with a number of foreign ministers participating in the meetings of the UN General Assembly being held in New York.

His Royal Highness met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and also with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. He later met with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

At these meetings the ministers discussed matters of concern to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and their respective states and exchanged views on the subjects on the agenda for the present session of the General Assembly. Bilateral relations between the Kingdom and the United States, Germany, and Great Britain were also discussed. [passage omitted]

Security Council Agrees on Team's Departure

JN2609201291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1937 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 26 Sep (INA)—The UN Security Council has responded positively to Iraq's conditions to enable the members of the UN nuclear inspection team to leave Baghdad with documents on the Iraqi nuclear program.

Iraq had informed the Security Council of the need for the leader and members of the team to sign inventory lists and vouchers to avoid deception and the possibility that forged documents might be slipped in among the others to insult Iraq and to use them as a pretext to launch an aggression against it in the future.

The U.S. envoy to the Council said that no one objected to Iraq's condition, adding that Security Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee is preparing a message to Iraq concerning the Council's approval.

Security Council members have held unofficial consultations to discuss the recent letter from Iraq.

The Council president, French Ambassador Merimee, told journalists that the Council members "understand that Iraq agrees to allow the inspectors to leave with the documents after an inventory is drawn up and a receipt issued."

He added that the Council heard a report from Special Committee Chairman Rolf Ekeus on the outcome of a meeting he held earlier in the day with Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn, and that the Council members have authorized him to draft a reply to the Iraqi letter.

The Council president also said that the inspection team has been "instructed not to leave without the documents."

Ekeus told Council members that "he prefers not to travel to Baghdad unless the inspectors' problem is resolved."

He told journalists that the Iraqi letter deals with two main points; namely, the helicopters and the situation of the inspection team. He also said he believes he should travel to Baghdad after he knows that the Iraqi side has formulated the details of a solution to the problem, which is a complicated one that needs composed action and arrangements.

It is worth noting that Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations has sent a letter to the UN Security Council. Following is the text of that letter:

Your Excellency,

Upon instructions from my government, I am happy to inform you of the following:

1. Out of its desire to resolve the problem peacefully and avoid trouble, Iraq requests that Mr. Rolf Ekeus visit Baghdad so that we can discuss with him the means to deal with the current situation and arrangements for use of the German helicopters.

2. If Mr. Ekeus does not arrive in Baghdad within the next 48 hours, the Iraqi authorities insist that an inventory be prepared jointly by the Iraqi side and the inspection team of all the documents and photos taken by the team, before allowing it to remove anything from the site.

3. The Iraqi authorities do not and will not recognize any document or photo unless noted in the inventory prepared jointly by the two parties. If any claim emerges on any documents or photos not noted in the joint inventory, this would mean there is a premeditated intention to harm Iraq.

4. Iraq once again voices its strong protest against the deliberate actions of the inspection team, particularly those of its head, Mr. David Kay. We also stress what we have discussed before with Mr. Rolf Ekeus that putting so many Americans on the inspection teams constitutes a major reason for stirring trouble, because those Americans execute the policy of their government, which persists in violating the letter and spirit of the UN Security Council resolutions and imposes its own policies that are hostile to Iraq's leadership.

Please accept my regards.

National Assembly Supports Saddam on Inspections

JN2609194391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Sep 91

["Text" of cable sent by the National Assembly to President Saddam Husayn on 26 September]

[Text] Esteemed leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect you:

The National Assembly strongly protests the conduct of the UN nuclear mission headed by David Kay, who seized the files and records of the personnel engaged in scientific research with the Atomic Energy Agency and the Ministry of Industry and Minerals. David Kay also kept photocopies of Iraqi scientific personnel records, at a time when the country had cooperated with the Security Council, providing it with all facilities for the international mission to carry out its work.

Esteemed leader: These records have nothing to do with UN resolutions. Moreover, the officials of the international mission have exceeded their mandate, because they have turned the tasks assigned to them by Security Council resolutions into intelligence missions serving the objectives of the CIA and the Mosad. This is especially true when we learn that David Kay has turned out to be a CIA officer. He is the same person who raised the famous problem last June.

Esteemed leader: The CIA and the Zionist Mosad have tried to obstruct Iraqi scientific research, which has peaceful purposes. Their efforts have failed, however, in view of the honesty, patriotism, and competence of Iraqi experts and technicians, who have proved to be an object of pride for Iraqis and all sincere Arabs.

Esteemed leader: The campaign waged by the United States and world Zionism, by means of the sixth inspection team, seeks to maintain the economic blockade and starve the Iraqi people, when our country has implemented all Security Council resolutions. This campaign also seeks to give the U.S. Administration flimsy pretexts to pursue propagandistic and political drives to tarnish Iraq's international reputation. The U.S. Administration is also trying to cover up the ugly crime committed by the United States and its allies during the treacherous aggression against Iraq, when they buried large numbers of Iraqis alive.

Esteemed leader: The representatives of the Iraqi people support all Your Excellency's measures not to allow the inspection team to seize files and records on the social status and biographic details of personnel engaged in scientific research. The people's representatives also denounce and condemn the role of the United States and world Zionism in the interference in Iraq's internal affairs under the cover of Security Council resolutions and through the inspection teams, which have exceeded their role as assigned to them by the unjust Security Council resolutions.

O ye who believe, if ye will aid the cause of God, he will aid you and plant your feet firmly. But those who reject God, for them is destruction and God will render their deeds astray from their marks. [Koranic verses]

[Signed] The National Assembly.

INA on Background of Inspector David Kay

JN2609185391 Baghdad INA in English 1755 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] New York, Sep. 26, INA—American independent sources today told IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that David Kay, head of UN nuclear inspection team who has been charged by the American White House with assessing the Iraqi nuclear program, does not possess any scientific qualifictions in physics or atomic engineering. His only specialty is in political science, which he acquired in his studies in Columbia University in New York in 1967.

The sources added that after his graduation, Kay worked in the American State Department then he was sent to work at the U.S. Mission to the U.N. under a vague status (International Organisations Affairs). And in 1977 David Kay worked as editor of a political bulletin called "Changing U.N. Options for the U.S." published by Praeger Press of New York, a publishing house long expected as a CIA front.

In 1978 David Kay worked at the UNESCO in the same specialty then in 1983, he was transferred to work in the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in Vienna as director of programs of international cooperation, basically aims at besieging the Third World states and not allowing them the acquisition of nuclear technology in compliance with directives of the U.S. CIA, as that has been openly declared in the latest meeting of the IAEA's Administrative Council by its Director-General Hans Blix. [sentence as received]

Biological Weapons Inspector Sees No Production

JN2709084591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Sep (INA)—Dave Huxsoll, head of the UN biological weapons inspection team, has said that his team has not found any evidence to prove that Iraq was producing biological weapons, or was on its way to producing such weapons.

Talking to journalists, Huxsoll told INA that the Iraqi Government is cooperating very well with the team. He added that his team, which comprises 13 members from nine countries, has visited a number of sites in Iraq, including one 80 km to the south of Baghdad where research is being conducted on unicellular proteins.

He also said that his team does not need helicopters because Iraqi authorities are providing the team with all the required facilities.

Huxsoll, who arrived in Baghdad on 20 September, said he first visited Iraq on 3 August 1991, with the first inspection team.

Paper Sees Team Issue as Pretext for Aggression

JN2709100791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has asserted that the campaigns of deception and falsehood, led by Washington against Iraq under the pretext of the inspection teams, raise more than one question about the reasons that prompt Bush and the members of the 30-state coalition to escalate the situation on account of technical problems.

In its editorial today, the mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry says: These slanderous campaigns and the fabrication of lies not only arouse suspicion and doubt, but also conceal a premeditated act of aggression.

The paper adds: If the matter really concerns compliance or noncompliance with the UN resolutions, then it would not be difficult or impossible to resolve this issue. On the contrary, this would be quite easy, especially since the Iraqi objections to the conduct of certain inspection teams, when they step beyond what is stipulated by the UN resolutions, are legitimate and can be discussed to find a suitable solution, so that these teams can carry out their work in healthy and sound conditions.

The paper explains that the U.S. aggressive escalation, under the pretext of these teams, confirm that Washington has indeed "booby-trapped" these teams with people whose main task is to provoke Iraq by infringing on its sovereignty, its people's safety, and national rights. In addition, Washington has supplied them with equipment not suitable for the teams' missions, but which is used for the purpose of spying and infiltrating the Iraqi national security system.

The paper says that the United States is throwing its political and military weight behind this issue to allow its agents in those teams to arrange, through threats and extortion, conditions that would allow them to move freely in Iraq. It also wants to use this fabricated crisis, and others like it, as a pretext to launch aggression against the people of Iraq, the paper adds.

AL-QADISIYAH points out that this action is not in harmony with the inspection teams' mission and is no more than an intelligence operation aimed at completely destroying any hope of scientific progress and the attainment of the increased technology in the future.

The paper says: Bush has realized lately that Iraq's strength lies not only in advanced scientific manifestations, but also, and more importantly, in the brains of its genius sons who accomplished these advanced achievements and in the strength of its citizens who worked day and night to remove what was left by the aggression and restore to Iraq the glory and the radiance that befits the cradle of civilization.

The paper asserts that following the savage attack against Iraq and its people, the United States and its 30-member coalition today want to capture the brilliance of its sons and then murder them, as they have done in the past with Arab and Iraqi scientists, who were treacherously assassinated in the American West to deprive Iraq of an important technological link of progress.

Foreign Minister Meets Turkish Counterpart

JN2709090491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations/New York, 27 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn today met with a number of foreign ministers attending the general discussions of the UN General Assembly.

Ahmad Husayn has met separately with the foreign ministers of Turkey, Pakistan, and Malaysia.

The foreign minister discussed issues with the three ministers related to the work of the current UN General Assembly session. He also briefed them on the suffering of the Iraqi people resulting from the continued economic blockade, and on the current fabricated clamor over the inspection teams and the structure of the current team and its deliberate bias against Iraq.

UN Head Told U-2 Mission 'Flagrant Aggression'

JN2609150891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, 26 Sep (INA)—Iraq informed the United Nations of its strong condemnation of the violation of Iraqi airspace by the American U-2 spy plane.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, sent an official letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, telling him that on 21 September, the plane violated Iraqi airspace for the seventh time, coming from and returning to Saudi airspace.

An INA correspondent in New York reports that the minister of state for foreign affairs noted in his letter that the plane's mission is a long way from the mission of the UN Special Committee established under Resolution 687, and that what is happening is an exposed spying operation by the United States in the name of the United Nations and under the cover of the Special Committee.

The letter explained that these violations harm the credibility of the United Nations and its supposed role in safeguarding regional sovereignty and peace for member states. It pointed out that the violations represent a flagrant aggression against the sovereignty and inviolability of Iraqi territory, something diametrically opposed to the principles of international law and the objectives of the UN Charter.

Protest Made on 25 Sep Overflights

JN2709105991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 27 Sep (INA)—Iraq has once again protested against U.S. aircrafts' violations of its airspace with the aim of reconnaissance and provocation.

Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said in a memorandum to the UN secretary general that U.S. aircraft continued their violations of Iraqi airspace on 25 September. The U.S. planes carried out 18 sorties consisting of six two-plane formations and six single-plane formations.

The representative said the hostile aircraft centered their activities over the areas of Irbil, al-'Amadiyah, Mosul, Dahuk, and Tall 'Afar, at altitudes between 3 and 7 km at a speed of 720 km per hour.

Iraq's representative added in his memorandum that a plane heading from Kuwaiti airspace violated Iraqi airspace at 0910, local time, at a speed of 400 km per hour over the area of southeast al-Ratawi, 35 km inside Iraqi airspace, and then disappeared into Kuwaiti airspace at 0917.

The memorandum also added that three helicopters were detected south of the city of Dahuk at 1625.

Bush's Plans Said Foiled by Policy of Restraint

JN2609065791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH says Iraq's calm, realistic, and self-restrained policy toward U.S. aggressive practices has dropped many cards Bush tried to use to inflict further harm on the Iraqi people.

In its editorial today, the paper, mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, says that Iraq continues to pursue this policy and seeks to expose U.S. aggressiveness and its malicious objectives of wiping out Iraq's cultural and scientific progress through a new sinful aggression, and of harming the Iraqis' will, dignity, and insistence on their political, social, and national options through the continued unjust economic blockade.

It says the aim of the U.S. aggression against Iraq is now clear and exposed. Bush explicitly announced this from the podium of the United Nations three days ago, when he shouted before all the world's representatives, that the aggression against the Iraqi people, through the unjust economic blockade, must continue. He once again permitted himself to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs, to declare U.S. political trusteeship over the Iraqi people, and to attack Iraq's historic leadership, represented by President Saddam Husayn and his independent national system.

AL-QADISIYAH maintains that the U.S. aggression is not motivated by the fabricated crises and technical disputes, which can be resolved diplomatically with the United Nations. This is an ongoing aggression decided in advance, and the invented crises serve merely as weak excuses, says the paper. But Bush does not care whether the excuses are weak or not; he is carrying out his aggressiveness against Iraq and its people under the game of the new world order, which entrenches U.S. hegemony over the world through terrorism and brute force, the paper adds.

AL-QADISIYAH continues: If, by his aggressive vituperations, Bush hopes to achieve against Iraq what he failed to achieve through the sinful 30-state aggression and the chapters of treason and treachery, he will reap only illusion. No matter how strong the conspiracies and terrorist pressures against them are, the people of Iraq will continue to be faithful to their national and pan-Arab principles; they will insist on their independent decision and human pride. The Iraqis will overcome this crisis, or the remaining chapters of the comprehensive conspiracy against them, by demonstrating patience and steadfastness and confronting the forces of aggression.

Search for Troops 'Buried Alive' Televised

JN2709044691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1817 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—Iraqi television tonight aired a special program on the journey which began three days ago to search for the remains of the heroic Iraqi soldiers who refused to surrender to the invading U.S. forces and who were buried alive in their positions on the far desert ends on the border between Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Iraqi television and INA teams returned to Baghdad following a visit to that area to locate the positions in preparation for the second stage, which is uncovering the bodies of those soldiers buried in that sector. [passage omitted]

Former Algerian President Arrives on Visit

JN2609193391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1921 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep 91 (INA)—Former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella arrived in Baghdad tonight on a visit to the country. He was received by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

President Ben Bella told INA that his visit is an expression of the Algerian people's solidarity with Iraq in the face of U.S. threats.

Nonaligned Movement Asked To Expel Kuwait

JN2709045791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1901 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—Iraq has called for reconsidering Kuwait's membership in the Nonaligned Movement and for expelling it from the movement, since it signed a defense cooperation agreement with the United States.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, said in a message addressed to SFRY Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar: The agreement represents a military alliance with a superpower and is contrary to the spirit and principles of the Nonaligned Movement, as well as to the bases upon which countries are accepted in the movement.

Al-Sahhaf warned that this alliance not only turns Kuwait into a U.S. military base, but also escalates tension in the Arab region, in general, and the Gulf in particular. This alliance also threatens the security, independence, and sovereignty of the states in the region. He added that this requires the Nonaligned Movement—in accordance with its principles and bases—to reconsider Kuwait's membership and take the natural decision to expel it.

The following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency Mr. Budimir Loncar, foreign minister of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia:

Since its foundation, the Nonaligned Movement has been an important factor for the successful liquidation of colonialism. The Nonaligned Movement has also supported Third World nations, helped them achieve their independence, and protected them from the pressures to which they had been exposed so as to join military alliances. This support enabled sovereign, newly independent nations to reject firmly the policies of polarization and military alliances. Moreover, the Nonaligned Movement has always stressed national independence and sovereignty, and opposed participation in military pacts and alliances as a fundamental basis of the movement and a condition for membership.

As you know, the preparatory conference held by the nonaligned nations in Cairo in June 1961 specified the conditions for the movement's membership, most important of which are Paragraph 2, supporting struggle for national independence; Paragraph 4, stipulating that nonaligned nations should not be party to any bilateral military pact with a major power; and Paragraph 5, prohibiting the establishment of foreign military bases on the territory of the nations that seek membership in the movement.

The declaration issued by the third Nonaligned Movement conference convened in Lusaka in 1970—dubbed the Declaration on Peace, Independence, Development, Cooperation, and the Democracy of International Relations—stated that the nonaligned policies were inspired by the determination of independent nations to preserve their national independence and the equitable interests of their peoples.

The Nonaligned Movement was the product of a global revolution against colonialism and the birth of a large number of newly liberated countries that had opted for an independent political line to promote their development. They also decided to refuse to exchange centuries of subservience for new forms of subordination.

At the fourth summit of the movement, held in Algiers in 1973, certain Nonaligned principles were redefined, emphasizing that the movement rests on principles of national independence, respect for the principles of national independence, the sovereignty of nations, and the right of each country to peace, security, and absolute equality among nations, and rejecting subordination as a corollary to military pacts with major powers.

We would like to refer to the 20 September announcement that the rulers of Kuwait had signed what they called a defensive cooperation agreement with the United States, which provides for facilities to U.S. forces so they can have a presence in Kuwait. The 10-year pact also provides for the stockpiling of weapons and military equipment in Kuwait, and for the undefined use of Kuwaiti ports.

Since this is a military alliance with a superpower, the agreement is in conflict with the spirit and principles of the Nonaligned Movement and the bases upon which applicants are accepted as members in the movement. These bases have been underscored at Nonaligned summits and foreign-minister-level conferences. This ill-starred military alliance not only turns Kuwait into a U.S. military base, but also heightens tension in the Arab region in general and in the Arabian Gulf in particular, as well as putting at risk the security, independence, and sovereignty of the countries there.

The military alliance between the rulers of Kuwait and the United States requires that the Nonaligned Movement live up to its principles and founding rules and reconsider Kuwait's membership in the movement, and then make the natural decision to relieve it of its membership.

Syria, Egypt Criticized for Stance During War

JN2509202491 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic
23 Sep 91 p 1

['Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin article: "Saddam Husayn and the Others"]

[Excerpts] As we pass the anniversary of the al-Qadisiyah epic, we have to recall the ideas propagated by the Iranian regime and its allies, especially Syria's rulers, yesterday and today. [passage omitted]

During the Iraq-Iran war, Iraq tried to draw the Egypt of Husni Mubarak to the Arab ranks so that it could open again to the Arabs and so that Arabs could open to that Arab country, which has a significant quantitative and qualitative weight within the balance of the conflict. In Iraq's view, that initiative was the best way to freeze the Camp David accords and halt Egypt's accelerating drift toward the Zionist entity as a substitute for Egypt's Arab surroundings. However, Syria, Iran, and those who are trying today to achieve unity with Egypt launched an unfair campaign against Iraq and accused it of trying to propagate the Camp David accords and make Israel enter the Arab surroundings through Egypt.

During that period, the author of this article wrote an article in AL-'IRAQ under the headline "Fear From Camp David; or Fear for Camp David." The author thought the Syrian regime in particular feared that Iraq would manage to draw Egypt from the circle of conspiracy against the Arabs, but did not fear for the Arabs from the ill-omened accords.

To be brief, let us look at the situation in the region now and ask one specific question: Who stands with the United States and Zionism, and who stands against them?

It was the Iraq of Saddam Husayn against which the United States deployed half a million troops and massed over 30 states in an unholy alliance.

It was the Iraq of Saddam Husayn that the U.S. armies entered and tried to stay in.

It was the Iraq of Saddam Husayn whose infrastructure the United States has struck, and whose people were subjected to ugly air bombardment. [passage omitted]

What is happening in Iraq is happening at a time when Iran has forgotten something called the Palestine question and sent its agents and troops at a specific time to finish the aggression that the U.S. armies started.

It happened while Hafiz al-Asad sent his army to fight hand in hand with the United States and Zionism against the people and army of Iraq.

It happened while Hafiz al-Asad was negotiating with Baker and embraced him for the sole purpose of liquidating the Palestine question.

It happened while Syria coordinated with the Egypt of Camp David for the sake of another Camp David which, this time, will include everyone; and while the ruler of Egypt calls Iraq names every day when he speaks on the phone to Hafiz al-Asad.

So which regime is an agent to the United States and Zionism? Are they the regimes that offered the United States and Zionism what they wanted in order to please them and fought on their side against an Arab and Muslim country, or is it the regime that the United States and Zionism are fighting against with all ferocity?

As for the "very democratic opposition" parties, they were waging their struggle in the brothels of Damascus under the pretext of fighting the Saddamite regime which, according to them, is agent to the United States from militant Syria, the progressive "base." These parties are becoming so insolent that they began to feel proud and daring because the United States supports them. They even began to threaten "the Iraqi regime" with the United States. They were also overjoyed as their figures had the chance to meet with a U.S. intelligence official or a director general of the U.S. State Department. [passage omitted]

Turkish Charges on Support for PKK Denied

JN2609173191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1711 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—Iraq has categorically denied the Turkish president's accusations that Iraq is supporting individuals in the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK]. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq has done nothing to interfere in Turkey's internal affairs.

Commenting on these accusations, he told INA that it seems that President Ozal is using this unfounded pretext to justify his government's interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and serve U.S. schemes against Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that during his visit to Ankara last June, he had communicated to President Ozal President Saddam Husayn's assertions that Iraq wants to maintain traditional good-neighbor relations, a commitment to noninterference in internal affairs, and joint cooperation. The deputy prime minister said that Turkey's answers on these issues had been ambiguous.

Attacks on Government Troops Reported

NC2609155291 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Our popular forces are continuing their successful attacks on the criminal Ba'th dens and its cowardly mercenaries.

Our jihad operations were as follows:

1. A jihad unit attacked Ba'thist henchmen at the [placename indistinct]-al-Hud intersection, killing a large number of them and arresting others, who received just punishment after an investigation confirmed they had been agents, and,

2. The heroic revolutionaries attacked trains carrying Ba'thist intelligence and security personnel on the al-Basrah-Baghdad route. [Word indistinct] of them were killed. [Passage indistinct] along the railroad from Baghdad to north and south and vice versa.

Congratulations to our heroic revolutionaries and brave mujahidin for pursuing the jihad road until victory has been achieved, God willing.

Salih on Internal Affairs, Foreign Relations

JN2509191791 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 25 Sep 91 p 9

[Interview with National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih by Huda Hammudah in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hammudah] In important historic moments in the lives of peoples, serious pauses are made to assess events and see where responsibilities lie. This happened in cases whose results were less important that those of the Gulf war. Despite the fact that in the speech he made after the cease-fire, President Saddam Husayn promised the Iraqi people and the Arab nation to explain everything to them and to assess the events that took place during the aggression and the circumstances of the cease-fire and withdrawal from Kuwait, no official Iraqi assessment has been published in this regard, especially since so many things have been written by Arab and foreign quarters that contain contradictory information.

[Salih] The war could be considered a third world war because a majority of big powers in the world took part in it, in addition to other states that contributed to it in one way or another. Therefore, it is a historically important war and will certainly have a great effect on life in the region.

Any assessment of major events requires time and effort because hasty assessments would not give the required results, and will not be accurate or thorough. Furthermore, we do not think the Gulf war is over yet. True, hostilities have ceased, but other chapters of the conflict are still continuing. These aim to demolish Iraq completely and destroy what still stands. I believe that what goes on in the international arena gives the best evidence about what we say. Although hostilities have ceased, although Iraq has withdrawn from Kuwait, and although all the resolutions we adopted on Kuwait—and this was the pretext that Bush and his accomplices used to stage aggression against Iraq—have been abrogated; despite all this, the enemies continue to exercise strong pressure against Iraq, particularly in the form of the economic blockade, psychological and media warfare, and interference in domestic affairs.

Therefore, I do not think it is appropriate to publish final conclusions now because the conflict is still going on. Furthermore, the Iraqi leadership is now busy with facing the conspiracy in all of its forms and dimensions. We need some time to give an accurate and objective assessment of all the events. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] In the Iraqi National Assembly session on 25 August 1991, you introduced amendments to six clauses in the Political Parties Law. A clause stating "a party should not be founded on a religious basis" was deleted. People understood the deletion of this clause as meaning that parties can now be founded on a religious basis. Do you not think that the formation of religious parties may harm national unity in Iraq and make it easier for sectarian parties to be founded?

[Salih] The introduction to that clause, Clause Five, of the parties law, which has been amended, states that "religion and politics should not be mixed." The introduction then goes on to talk about sectarianism, racism, anti-Arabism, and other things that may enable the enemies to weaken the unity of the national ranks and the internal front in Iraq. You know that the people in Iraq are made up of different ethnic groups and belong to different religions, and in each religion there are a number of sects. The legislator, therefore, wanted to take precautions in advance and drafted that clause in such a way. Many of our friends, however, especially the religious ones inside, and particularly outside Iraq, did not understand the reasons that made us draft that clause in such a way. They criticized us for it, and we wanted to remove that ambiguity. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] We have noticed that the recent Iraqi-Iranian talks were not positive, that no solutions were forthcoming on the issues of the POW's, the Iraqi planes in Iran, and the displaced persons. What have these talks achieved?

[Salih] We and Iran are neighbors. Normally, neighborly relations should be clear, positive, and intimate all along the line because this is the way to have international relations, especially between neighbors. We have close ties with Iran, which is a Muslim state with which we had joint history at a certain stage. We support establishing close relations with all of our neighbors, including Iran. However, we are sensitive on one point; namely, interference in our internal affairs. Regrettably, on many occasions, the various Iranian governments tried to interfere in Iraqi affairs. This exacerbated tension between us. We hoped that Iran would benefit from the painful experiment of the eight-year war and we hoped our ties with Iran would be strengthened. We embarked on this line. Subsequent events, however, showed matters in different color and things happened, such as Iran's refusal to admit the real number of Iraqi planes in Iran and its dispatching of a great number of saboteurs to Iraq. However, we did not lose hope. Whenever a ray of hope appears we cling to it in the hope that relations would be restored to normal. Our delegation's visit to Iran was along these lines. The Iraqi delegation's head made a clear statement. We aspire to solve the problem of the Iraqi POW's who are still in Iran and we aspire to make possible the return of the displaced persons who were forced to move during the Iraq-Iran war. There is also the problem of the planes that we sent to them during the war because we trusted them. There are many of them, both civilian and military. Now we want the civilian aircraft to use for transportation. So far no positive result has emerged from the talks. We hope for more visits and talks in order to reach a solution to the existing problems, because a healthy condition mandates good-neighbor relations based on joint interests and understanding, realizing happiness, peace, and security for the two peoples. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Regarding your position on the Middle East conference and Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi's statement that Iraq does not recognize the result of this conference, considering it as a new Camp David, what steps can Iraq take to influence the results of this conference, especially since it paves the way for liquidating the Palestinian cause?

[Salih] What was the cause of all that happened? It was the Palestinian cause and the problem of fair distribution of the nation's wealth. Basically, the struggle was for the sake of the Palestinian cause. If we took a position like that of al-Sadat, the United States would have tolerated our taking Kuwait and would have kept silent. But they know that Saddam Husayn is not Anwar al-Sadat. They know that Saddam Husayn honors his word. This means that the Zionist entity was on its way to extinction if it continued its course. Therefore, they invented these events and carried out their deed.

Our position on the Palestinian cause cannot change. Since we were children, our stand and struggle, in the Iraqi leadership and the Ba'th Party, revolved around one axis, namely the Palestinian cause. Is it reasonable that we abandon the cause at this age?

What steps shall we take? Today we are not in control of all the issues. You are aware of our circumstances. No doubt we are under difficult conditions. But surely we will not remain silent. When the brother speaker of the Algerian National Assembly proposed convening the Arab Parliamentary Union in Baghdad, we said that even under these circumstances we are prepared to bear all the consequences of such a meeting. Regrettably, the question was ignored. There was complete silence. Nobody said anything on this subject.

We support every step that unites the Arab nation against the plot to liquidate the Palestinian cause and are prepared to throw our political and moral weight and all of our resources toward serving the Palestinian cause. It is true that we are now in a position that does not allow us to play a prominent role, but these are exceptional circumstances and will one day disappear regardless of the enemy's power and resources. We support the Palestinian cause and will never abandon it. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Is the Iraqi National Assembly contacting European parliaments in order to break the unjust embargo on Iraq?

[Salih] We addressed letters to all parliament speakers in the world, and we began to send delegations to the countries that would receive us. You are aware of the extent of U.S. influence. Some parliaments addressed invitations to us, but later withdrew them. Now, there is a slight change. Delegations will head for Turkey and the Arab Maghreb countries. A delegation will take part in the European Parliament meetings in France and Belgium this month. This is a good start. We continue to move and contact all world parliaments so that they might help lift the unjust embargo that runs contrary to all human values.

[Hammudah] Now that the Kuwait rulers have been exposed and they ask the United States to keep forces in their country, thus changing it into a U.S. protege, is it possible—after all that has taken place—to restore relations with them and say "the brothers in Kuwait"?

[Salih] Why did what happened actually take place? Did the Iraqis realize that Kuwait is Iraqi only on 2 August 1990? We know that Kuwait has been Iraqi for eternity. However, we dealt with them as brothers and received them as kings based on Arab brotherhood and higher Arab interests. We did not think of carrying out any action against them until we found out that, pushed by the United States, they were conspiring against us. Then, what happened, happened.

We were not at fault. Even when they were conspiring against us, we cautioned them secretly, and openly at the Baghdad summit in 1989 [as published; meeting took place in 1990]. On that day, President Saddam Husayn said that those who economically conspire against us must know that economic conspiracy is war. The meaning of this is clear. We tried to tackle the issue through discussions, dialogues, and meetings. However, we were faced by an immoral position. Hence, what happened, happened. They caused it. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] How do you assess the current fragmentation in the Soviet Union, and its effect of the conflict in the Arab region?

[Salih] Gorbachev is responsible for the fragmentation. He destroyed his country with his own hands, claiming that he wants to take steps toward democracy. It seems that he does not know what is inside his country, the extent of the destruction by the United States, and its influence on his country. He rushed things, so these results emerged. I do not believe that the Soviet Union will become stable in a short period. Problems in the Soviet Union will continue. This is what the United States wants, because it does not want the Soviet Union to remain unified and strong, and to have clout in international politics; it would act solely in this regard. Thus, it will try to maintain the current situation, aggravate it, and do further harm to the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Talk Says Iraqis Reject New Wars, Disasters

JN2509124091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Unattributed commentary: "How Long Will Iraqis Live in the Whirlpool of Dangers?"]

[Text] Western news media are once again talking about possible military action against our country, Iraq. The news came after the Iraqi foreign minister presented an oral reply to the Security Council members yesterday. With the spread of these reports, anxiety is once again dominating the minds of Iraqis. They are worried about the possibility of extremely undesirable consequences as a result of such military action.

On this occasion, we clearly announce that the Iraqis reject any further wars. The Iraqis are not at all ready to face the dangers of war or to live amid a whirlpool of anxiety and fear about themselves and their families. Once again, we have been hearing statements like: British-American warning directed to Iraq because of its objection to disclose other documents about its nuclear program; Documents suggesting Iraq is continuing its nuclear program have been found; The Iraqi authorities released the experts only after taking the documents from them; Security Council members held a meeting and found the Iraqi response unsatisfactory; and Bush rejects any bargain with Iraq, and the U.S. forces are ready to provide air support for the helicopters used by inspection teams in Iraq.

On the other hand, observers have noted that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman categorically rejected these reports and accused Westerners of searching for false excuses to interfere in Iraq's affairs and violate its national sovereignty.

As Iraqis, we honestly announce our rejection of another war against our people, who have been torn by successive wars and disasters. We also express our strong hatred for and anger at the prolonging or even presence of programs to build weapons of mass destruction, whether in our country or in the world at large. We strongly demand a change to this bizarre and volatile situation so that our ears will not keep waiting for the news of the attack or the approach of the danger. Enough harm has been done to the Iraqi people. Let all return to the logic of justice and wisdom to evade the dangers surrounding Iraq and the Iraqis.

Prime Minister Chairs Agriculture Output Meeting

JN2709045091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1828 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah today chaired a meeting comprising Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, various governors, and heads of agricultural departments in Iraq.

The meeting focused on implementing the primary goal of the cultivation drive for the coming winter season, namely, exploiting agricultural land in Iraq to the fullest and securing the requirements for maximum production levels.

The meeting also stressed the need to expand wheat cultivation and redress the shortcomings of the previous season.

U.S. Warned on Meeting al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi

TA2709092091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Sep 91 pp A1, 8

[Report by Ori Nir and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Israel has informed the United States that in view of their meeting with PLO leaders in Algiers, the participation of Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi in the Palestinian delegation for the peace conference is unacceptable. Israel believes that the meeting in Algiers indicates the PLO's involvement in the process.

Israel has also made it clear to Washington that if senior administration officials confer now with al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi, Jerusalem will take a very grave view of the fact, and it could seriously damage the chances of convening the peace conference. Al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi are currently in London, waiting for a U.S. go-ahead to visit Washington.

Political circles have explained that according to the agreement between Israel and the U.S. Administration, the United States is not supposed to renew its dialogue with the PLO. "A meeting at this point between Baker and these two personalities, who conferred with 'Arafat and his men in Algiers, would constitute U.S. recognition of the PLO's role in the political process and would, in fact, signal the resumption of the dialogue between the administration and the PLO," Israeli sources said.

Political circles in Jerusalem have said that the Americans were reminded that the Israeli Government had walked the extra mile toward the United States by acceding to its request to permit 'Ashrawi to leave for Jordan to hold talks on the composition of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Jerusalem claims that she and al-Husayni took advantage of the government's generosity. Ministers from the right-wing parties are determined to demand that the prime minister take real steps against the two this time. Several weeks ago, after their meeting with PLO representatives in London, al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi were merely summoned for questioning by the police. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Deny Attending PNC

TA2709055691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni has denied that he and Hanan 'Ashrawi flew to Algiers to address the Palestine National Council [PNC]. They said they have spent the last few days in London preparing for their trip to the United States. From London, Jerry Lewis reports:

Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, in separate Israel Radio interviews late last night, were adamant. They have been in London for the last few days and have not left the British capital to address the PNC or any of its committees currently in session in Algiers, as has been reported by some news agencies.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] You know, we were in London, and we are now in London. We did not left the United Kingdom at all during the last days, and I cannot and Hanan cannot be in two places at the same time. We were in England. [end recording]

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi told me that she, too, had been in London over the last few days. They had work to do here, she explained. As for reports in the national French news agency to the effect that they were seen in Algiers, this was typically untrue. The French, she said, always have these inaccuracies. Faysal al-Husayni recalled that previous similar reports about their allegedly recently being in Algiers and Tunis while seeing senior PLO figures were unfounded and should be disbelieved.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] Several days ago, there were reports also through some agencies saying me and Hanan 'Ashrawi were in Algiers. I was in London; Hanan 'Ashrawi was in Jerusalem, and she moved the same day from Jerusalem to Amman. So do not believe everything coming through agencies. [end recording]

He added they were due to depart shortly for a series of meetings in New York and Washington over this coming weekend, culminating in a session with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, though a firm appointment has yet to be finalized. He declined to go into details as to what message he will convey to Mr. Baker on Palestinian participation in the proposed peace conference, though he emphasized we were at a critical and important time in the peace process and would confirm that the contents of a letter of assurance for Palestinians was high on their agenda. Finally, I asked him to react to reports that he might be questioned and subsequently prosecuted for his alleged meetings with PLO officials. Those responsible, he said, should stop playing games.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] It is not the first time that some people from the right wing in Israel are coming with complaints and trying to create problems from time to time. We are in a peace process, and for this peace process we must do a lot of things and make the priority for the peace process. So we hope that those people will understand the situation and will stop all this game. [end recording]

Eytan Pulls Support for Participation in Talks

TA2709110791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan has said that he is withdrawing his support for Israel's participation in the peace conference under U.S. auspices. He believes that the latest U.S. moves have shown that it can no longer serve as an honest broker in the peace process. Minister Eytan told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that he will soon inform the prime minister that Tzomet has withdrawn its support for the peace process and calls for early elections.

Labor Changing Stand on PLO, Palestinian State

TA2709093391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Sep 91 p A4

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpts] The Labor Party is about to change its political platform in preparation for the party convention set for mid-October. It will erase from its political platform two noes that have so far been included in all of the party's political texts: "No to a Palestinian state and no to negotiations with the PLO."

A special committee appointed to establish the principles for a political settlement and peace between Israel and the Palestinians and Jordan, headed by Knesset Member Ya'aqov Tzur, states in the new proposal that instead of rejecting a Palestinian state, the platform will stipulate that Israel has a vital interest in negotiations and a peaceful political settlement with the Palestinians—"a compromise arrangement that will be based on guaranteeing Israel's security needs and on recognition of the Palestinians' rights, including their national rights. The political arrangements will establish a new reality that will obviate the need for Israeli control over Palestinians and will secure Israel as a democratic and humane society enjoying a stable Jewish majority. Israel should prefer a phased settlement with the Palestinians. In the first stage, Israel will offer the Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza self-rule and an interim arrangement en route to a permanent settlement."

Instead of no to negotiations with the PLO, the Labor Party amended the formulation of the platform, saying: "The Palestinian delegation to the negotiations will come from among the residents of the territories, whether in a separate Palestinian delegation or in a joint delegation with Jordan." There is no mention whatsoever of the PLO in the Labor Party's new platform. [passage omitted]

The party's Central Committee is scheduled to meet soon after Sukkoth to launch the Labor Party's anti-Likud winter offensive. The debate at the Central Committee meeting on 3 October will focus on two issues: the amendment to the law on the direct election of the prime minister and the Likud's efforts to abort it; and the state budget, with Labor trying to stress the vast sums of money the Likud is investing in the settlements versus the allocation of funds to development towns. The Labor Party Bureau meeting and an additional Central Committee session will probably be held in Hazor, to underline the party's attitude toward the development towns. [passage omitted]

To Submit No-Confidence Motion

TA2609195191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] A deepening political controversy between the Likud and the opposition parties hovers over the opening of the Knesset winter session due to start in 10 days [7 October]. Our Knesset affairs correspondent reports that in a meeting today, the Labor Party Secretariat decided to submit a motion of no-confidence in the government at the opening of the Knesset session. The motion was caused by the government's settlement policy and the crisis in relations with the United States.

Meanwhile, Knesset Member Tzahi Hanegbi, the Likud whip, has called on his party to pick up the gauntlet thrown by the Alignment, to decide on dispersing the Knesset, to hold early elections, and to grant the nation the authority to decide in the controversy between an undivided Eretz Yisra'el and a partitioned one.

Israeli Arabs Urge PNC To Okay Role in Talks

TA2609125291 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Sep 91 p 2

[Report by Muhammad Khalilah]

[Excerpt] Israeli Arabs are anxiously waiting for the PNC [Palestine National Council] to decide in favor of participating in the peace conference. In private discussions and symposiums over the weekend, appeals were made to the PLO leaders to stop the tendency to say "no" and instead to say "yes" to peace negotiations through a regional conference.

The three Marxist parties active in the Arab sector—RAKAH [New Communist Party], the Progressive List for Peace, and the Arab Democratic Party [ADP]—sent cables on Tuesday and Wednesday to the PLO leaders and members of the PNC now convening in Algiers to adopt clear resolutions permitting Palestinian participation in the peace conference. "A Palestinian absence from the regional peace conference will harm the Palestinians themselves and the chances of achieving peace," according to a cable the ADP sent to the PNC. Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah, however, explained that an affirmative PNC resolution depends on the Palestinians' receiving the necessary guarantees from the United States, including the right of self-determination and the establishment of a state. [passage omitted]

Poll: Most Palestinians Doubt 'Just Solution'

TA2709111791 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Sep 91 p 3

[Report by Yoram Binur]

[Text] Some 84 percent of the residents of the territories do not believe that the future negotiations for peace will yield a just solution based on UN resolutions. Some 61 percent said that they do not believe the Israelis will make the locals' lives any easier during the talks. These statistics emerge from a public opinion poll conducted by members of the East Jerusalem Asil press office.

The interviewees were also asked what form they would prefer the Palestinian delegation to the talks to have.

Some 60 percent said they would prefer an independent Palestinian delegation, 11 percent said they would like to see a joint delegation with Jordan, and 22 percent replied they are not interested in any form of participation in the negotiations.

Answering a question on whether they thought the Palestine National Council will adopt resolutions that conflict with the UN resolutions on peace, 58 percent said no and 30 percent said yes.

Levi, Turkish Minister Discuss Water Conference

TA2609175991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] A senior official accompanying Foreign Minister David Levi in New York told our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that there is no knowledge of a U.S. concession on the Palestinian delegation issue and that it is inconceivable that the United States should renege on its promise that Israel would not have to sit with anyone with whom it does not wish to sit at the peace conference.

Foreign Minister David Levi has said that Syria's threat to boycott the water conference attest to Damascus' intent regarding future relations with Israel. Minister Levi made these remarks in a meeting with the Turkish foreign minister at the UN building in New York. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports from New York:

In his talk with Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray, Minister David Levi pointed out that if Israel is not invited to the water conference, the United States will also stay away, thereby precluding the conference. The Turkish minister replied that his country is merely hosting, not organizing, the conference and that the fear is that if Israel is invited, the Arabs will not show up. David Levi said this threat has been made by Syria alone and that this attitude reflects Damascus' intentions with regard to its future relations with Israel.

The Turkish minister declared that Turkey intends to mark the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Jews from Spain. This statement was welcomed by Foreign Ministry Director General Yosi Hadas.

After that meeting, Minister Levi accidentally met his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa. The two are scheduled to meet next week. After exchanging greetings, the two left for their respective meetings.

Tomorrow Foreign Minister David Levi is scheduled to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin. The latter is meeting with Secretary Baker today, and after the meeting, we may learn the date and place of the conference planned for next month—the Middle East peace conference.

Comment: Shamir Not To Negotiate on Territories

TA2609141791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Sep 91 p 4

[Commentary by Shim'on Schiffer: "Shamir Will Continue To Be Tough"]

[Text] "The settlement festival"—as it is being called in the United States—is going to continue.

Although it might seem absurd, those in Shamir's close circle say that he has reached the conclusion, after analyzing the events linked to the granting of the loan guarantees, that "we should stop playing around with the Americans and state publicly and fearlessly Israel's intentions about the future of the territories."

Shamir's bureau points out that it was no coincidence that Shamir declared at the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the Tzur Yig'al settlement that the territories belong to Israel and that building will continue "up to the horizon."

Shamir continued this tough line yesterday when he spurred the participants in Jerusalem's Betar march "to continue and settle the country and not be put off by difficulties."

Shamir, his advisers say, believes that at a time when the Syrian ruler declares that Israel must evacuate all the territories and the PLO leader says that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state, that there is nothing wrong in the prime minister's announcing from all platforms that he aspires to annex the territories Israel captured in 1967.

It is also being said among Shamir's close circle that there is no reason the Americans should be shocked or surprised. "They know exactly with whom they are doing business. They know that Shamir does not plan to change his world view or try to find favor with President Bush. From now on they will hear from him outright and unequivocal declarations."

It therefore seems that while Israel is prepared to enter the peace process, Shamir will toughen up his pronouncements about Israel's hold on the territories and will permit Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon to bolster his activities there.

There are those who will say that the extremist declarations by Shamir, 'Arafat, and al-Asad are an additional sign that the Americans are moving along the path to seating the sides at the negotiating table, but Shamir's current remarks at not meant for negotiating purposes. His declarations are the result of a cold analysis of Bush's positions and an expression of his disappointment with the stand taken by U.S. Jewish leaders. The latter misguided him during the summer months, telling him that the guarantees are in his pocket and that U.S. Jewry will stand behind Israel. It is now clear that Bush was the winner of this round.

But Shamir's declarations were mainly a genuine expression of what he really thinks—that Israel under his leadership does not plan to negotiate the territories it captured in 1967.

Settlers Say Clause Prepares for Withdrawal

TA2609132991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Sep 91 p 16

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[Text] Leaders of the Jewish settlers in Judaea and Samaria claim that a new clause in the lease contracts governing land for building beyond the Green Line is preparing the ground for a withdrawal from the territories.

The clause stipulates that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] contingents in Judaea and Samaria and the head of the Civil Administration are entitled to cancel all leases at any time and to demand the immediate vacating of the leased property.

In a letter sent to the prime minister and the defense minister, the settlers demand that this clause be revoked at once because they fear that it could be legally interpreted as preparation for a possible evacuation of the Jewish population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Beni Katzover, head of the Samaria Regional Council, yesterday claimed that the new clause was introduced only a few months ago. Previously, all the Israeli residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip signed a standard lease form issued by the Civil Administration and valid for 49 years, the same as the lease documents within the Green Line.

Katzover said that "this clause has far-reaching political implications, and we cannot accept it."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 26 September reports that "official Civil Administration sources said that the new clause in the leasing contracts in the territories is meant only to clarify the full scope of the IDF's authority regarding the confiscation of lands, and is not designed for any other purpose. The clause stipulates that the local commanding officer has the authority to cancel lease contracts. The Civil Administration sources said that this does not alter the legal situation and is not meant to erect obstacles. The clause was entered in the contracts after an incident in which an entrepreneur sued the IDF after a plot of land he had leased was seized by the IDF to set up an Army camp."]

Arens Orders Clause Canceled

TA2609153291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has ordered the rescinding of the clause in the territories leasing contracts which allows an army commander to discontinue the contracts at the time of his choosing. An aide to the minister said that the clause had been introduced by professional ranks out of legal considerations. When the minister learned of the problem, he ordered a probe into the matter, after which he decided to have the clause rescinded.

Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that settler leaders in the territories feared the clause would be interpreted as preparation for the evacuation of the Jewish inhabitants of the territories.

Security Forces Detain 460 PFLP Activists

TA2609174591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Police detained over 460 people suspected of being terrorists, including 25 on the wanted list. Among the detainees are two suspected of murdering yeshiva student Hanan Atali. Others are suspected of shooting and grenade incidents, and murders of local Arabs. Asaf Ya'ari provides further details:

[passage omitted] During the operation in Jerusalem and Judaea, hiding places were uncovered and over 250 activists were detained. Some of the wanted men were senior activists in the organization. They headed squads in Jericho, Ramallah, al-Birah, and Jerusalem and carried out terrorist actions. In the wake of the detentions, 12 terrorist attacks have so far been solved and planned attacks were foiled. Those suspected of hurling a firebomb at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem on 16 January were among those arrested.

In the Samaria region, 43 people suspected of belonging to the PFLP in Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah were rounded up. In the Gaza Strip, PFLP units and military setups were uncovered in Gaza city, the Jabalyah refugee camp, Rafah, Khan Yunus, and al- Nusayrat. Some 170 suspects were detained in Gaza. [passage omitted]

Reshuffle Closer After Cabinet Debate on Peace

JN2609065291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26-27 Sep 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—The cabinet held a lengthy session Tuesday over Jordan's participation in the proposed peace conference, and sources close to the government said there appeared to be a split among ministers who favoured participation and those who rejected the idea of peace negotiations with Israel.

The prime minister, Mr. Tahir al-Masri, reportedly ended the debate that went late into the night, by asking his colleagues to think things over before those who rejected the peace option decided to stay or leave the cabinet.

According to the sources, one cabinet minister has already submitted his resignation to the prime minister while at least two others said during Tuesday's session that they were resigning their posts, leaving the door open for a cabinet reshuffle, which could come as early as next week.

The debate, which was described by the sources as "thorough and very responsible," centred on Jordan's difficult political and economic situation and the need to avoid isolation from peace talks especially since Syria, Egypt and Lebanon have declared their intention to attend the conference.

Muhammad Faris Tarawinah, minister of state for prime ministry affairs, reportedly told his colleagues that while he understood the need for Jordan to participate in the peace conference "the idea went against his ideological dream."

The sources said that Mr. Tarawinah, an Arab Nationalist, explained that he "fully understood and is convinced of the changes that are forcing Jordan to enter negotiations but that he finds it very difficult to adapt." He made it understood that he was quitting the government for that particular reason.

Salim al-Zu'bi, minister of municipalities and the environment, also reportedly announced his intention to resign and called on his colleagues not to fall for the pressures and to reject the peace conference. Mr. al-Zu'bi is also considered to be a Pan-Arab ultranationalist.

Al-Zu'bi said that while there are people who believe that non- participation is a form of suicide, he considered participation "a form of treason," one of the sources told the Jordan Times.

Minister of Awqaf and Religious affairs, Ra'if Najm, who wrote his letter of resignation to the prime minister on Sept. 15, charged that "there are legitimate principles which a Muslim cannot compromise on regardless of the pressures and the worsening political and economic situation."

In the 5-page letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, Mr. Najm said any peace between Arabs and the "Jews" would necessarily be to the benefit to Israel since it still enjoyed the support of the U.S. while Arabs were at their weakest. He called for the return to the dictates of Islam and withstanding all pressures until such a time when the Arabs can negotiate a just and comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

"Therefore, at a time when the government is taking a decision to participate in the "regional" conference and in negotiations and although "it is difficult for me to withdraw from the government, I nevertheless must submit my resignation hoping that God will guide you to all that is beneficial to this country," his letter said.

Although the final list of ministers who will resign from the cabinet will not be complete before next week, the sources expected that the reshuffle will include other ministers who will be asked to resign for administrative reasons.

With an eye to speeding up the reshuffle process, the premier has already started consultations with independent political personalities and parliamentary blocs in preparation for the impending change.

Sources told the Jordan Times that the premier has already held a "lengthy" meeting with the head of the Constitution Bloc, Dhuqan al- Hindawi, to discuss the Bloc's prospective participation in the cabinet.

The Constitution Bloc, which is the second largest bloc in the lower house of parliament with 18 members, was excluded from the government formed by Mr. al-Masri but is widely expected to form the backbone of any cabinet reshuffle. It is largely made up of establishment figures and Arab nationalists.

Sources close to the bloc told the Jordan Times that there has not been any serious negotiation in the government and that this was largely contingent on "defining the aims and policies of the al-Masri government in the period ahead." Sources had earlier said that the Constitution Bloc would expect to occupy at least six cabinet posts to ensure its effectiveness within the cabinet.

The leftist Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), which has five ministers in Mr. al-Masri's government, will lose at least one minister, Mr. Tarawinah, when the reshuffle takes place. No final decision has been taken yet on their continued presence in the government and sources close to the Alliance said a final decision will be taken when the Palestine National Council (PNC), currently meeting in Algiers, announces its position towards the peace conference.

The Democratic Bloc, which is the nucleus parliamentary body of JANDA, and the National Bloc of which the premier is a member, joined technocrats and independent deputies to form the first al-Masri government in June and were widely seen as the main strength behind the premier.

Reshuffle Expected in 'Next 48 Hours'

JN2709111991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] In Amman today, Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri said that he will carry out a cabinet reshuffle very soon in light of some ministers' opposition to Jordan's participation in the peace process.

While al-Masri did not specify a time for this, government sources affirmed that the cabinet reshuffle will take place in the next 48 hours.

Hasan on Ties With PLO, Peace Conference

JN1909093591 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1920 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by unidentified correspondent for Japan's NHK Television—place and date not given; recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] About the Mideast peace process, it seems that the most plausible framework for Palestinian participation in the coming peace conference is a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. It seems to lead the way to the resumption, the virtual resumption of the federation idea based on Mr. Reagan's proposal which had been discarded for one time during the eighties. What is your view?

[Hasan] There are three components: Firstly, the Palestinians have to choose their own representatives, and this has not yet emerged. Secondly, there has to be a clear division of labor if a Jordanian-Palestinian representation is to evolve. Clearly it is for the Palestinians to discuss the day-to-day current issues in the occupied territories during this coming process, and not for Jordan to do so other than in a role which is supportive of Palestinian rights. The third point—you mentioned federal arrangement—this is not the time. I think it is premature and unwise to discuss the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship because this immediately raises suspicions that Jordan has ambitions. Jordan's sole ambition, sole hope, effectively, is to see the reversal of occupation and to see the recognition of Palestinian rights. What happens then in terms of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is clearly the choice of the people.

[Correspondent] It is then very unlikely that the Palestinians will refuse participating in the conference only because the PLO is excluded, the PLO as such is excluded from the process. But if that happens, in case that happens, is the Kingdom ready to go alone?

[Hasan] There would never be any consideration of Jordan going it alone on behalf of the Palestinians. There is no, and never will be, a desire at any time to seek a unilateral solution to the Arab-Israeli and the Palestinian-Israeli problem. The very nature of the two-track process suggests very clearly that it is integral to the process that agreement cannot be achieved on comprehensive peace based on United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 unless that agreement is in both tracks. So the participation in the state-to-state talks does not contribute to comprehensive peace. Nor can any government claim that it has achieved comprehensive peace, even if we take into consideration the Egyptian-Israeli agreement, which stands before us as a clear indicator that in itself is not enough to achieve comprehensive peace, and therefore the participation of the Palestinians is an essential factor in this regard.

[Correspondent] How or what is your comment on the argument that a bad deal would be better than no deal at all, considering the increased pace of Jewish settlement in the occupied territories?

[Hasan] I feel that today domestically in the United States there is a tremendous concern for regional problem solving in the Middle East. So, there certainly is an opportunity there that should be taken very, very seriously by all concerned. However, I just want to make it very clear that there is a difference when you refer to a deal between a conference and its convening and between the intellectual, economic, social, and political stamina required to maintain a process—and it is there, but it is terribly important. I feel that the United States commits itself to a process, that indeed Europe commits itself to a process, that Japan commits itself to a process whereby the difficulties faced by all concerned in the region are understood. It is one thing to say, as you said, a bad deal which implies that the parties will be squeezed when you're pressured to attend the conference, but that pressure cannot be maintained indefinitely if regional arrangements are to be achieved, and that has to be through some form of consensual agreement. So, for this consensus to be maintained means that the credibility of the players, politically, socially, and economically has to be developed and as far as the Palestinians are concerned, clearly, political balance has to be achieved between Israel on the one side and the Palestinians on the other for a comprehensive and just peace to prevail.

[Correspondent] Do you think it is possible under the present regime in Jerusalem, Shamir's regime?

[Hasan] I think it is not the time to characterize and to comment. Clearly, the situation is very fluid at the present time and it is worth bearing in mind that we are talking about a process of several years. So, I think to judge on a given situation is patently wrong and clearly in terms of extreme or maximalist positions, these exist on all sides. However, it would be helpful to try in everything we say to obviate the difficulties that the region will face, including new confrontation, new war, new disasters, the shortage of resources, the shortage of water, energy, the future of human beings if the opportunity for peace is not taken. And I believe that applies equally in Israel with their enormous demographic problems and challenges as it does in the Arab world. Interdependence and regional complementarity is the order of the day in so many regions of the world, why not the Middle East? [passage omitted]

Al-Nasur on Peace Conference, Baker Meeting

JN2609072691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur has continued his meetings with his counterparts, the foreign ministers of various countries participating in the UN General Assembly's 46th session, including a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. We contacted Dr. al-Nusur in New York, and he spoke with our colleague Muhammad al-Sharif on these meetings and their contents.

[Begin recording] [Al-Nusur] [passage omitted] We met today with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, who called for a meeting of the five Arab countries surrounding Israel, including the PLO. The meeting also included Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon. We met at a working dinner to start the five-state coordination process toward the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Your Excellency the Minister, you spoke about the five-country meeting between the five Arab states concerned with the peace process in the region, how would you assess the level of coordination during this meeting?

[Al-Nusur] In fact, this meeting was held to launch and start the coordination process. I mean, I cannot claim that the coordination during the past period has been sufficient, constant, or comprehensive. There were bilateral attempts to coordinate with some parties, but in fact we had not succeeded in holding a meeting encompassing the entire group. There was a consensus on the need for coordination, even if there are different views today about coordination; whether it is early or late now, whether it is wise to start it or to delay it. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Sir, at your most-recent meeting with the U.S. secretary of state, did you find that the U.S. position on the peace conference has now become crystallized, particularly regarding the date for convening the conference and the mechanism for holding it?

[Al-Nusur] In fact, during my meeting with Secretary James Baker today, I did not find that the problem is in fixing the date. Rather, I found that there are still difficulties concerning the acceptance of the assurances by some parties. Some parties regard the assurances as meeting the questions they posed, and others are still in need of clarification on some questions, comprehensive answers, and more clarification. In fact, the most ambiguous thing is Palestinian participation. All are waiting for the convening of the Palestine National Council, the results of its meetings, and whether the Palestinians would participate or not. But my meeting with him was a chance for talks on what is going on at present regarding Iraq, and on bilateral relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United States. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Your Excellency the Minister, it has recently been reported that the United States and the Soviet Union may extend invitations to the concerned parties to attend the peace conference during the current session of the UN General Assembly. In your view, to what degree are these reports true?

[Al-Nusur] I met accidentally with the Soviet foreign minister, and I will have a long meeting with him in the next days. He gave me the impression that the Soviet Union is maintaining its position and is coordinating with the United States. However, as for issuing invitations to the conference during the UN General Assembly session, I do not think this would be the case because the ordinary session run through mid-December. The Soviet minister will not stay for this entire period, as I think he will leave, like other ministers, by the end of next week. By then, the general debate, which the ministers usually come to attend, will be concluded and the subcommittees will begin their work. In this case, Boris Pankin will not be present in New York, but he will return to Moscow. I believe that the invitations will not be extended during the UN General Assembly session.

[Al-Sharif] Thank you Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur. [end recording]

King Postpones National Assembly Session

JN2509170091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] A royal decree has been issued to postpone the parliament session in its ordinary term until 1 December 1991. The following is the text of the decree:

I, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Paragraph One of Clause 78 of the Constitution, decree the following:

The parliament session in its ordinary term shall be postponed until 1 December 1991.

VOL Reports on al-Hirawi's Meetings in New York

NC2609185291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Excerpts] According to a report by our New York correspondent a short time ago, the president of the republic, the chamber of deputies speaker, and the prime minister met with John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern and North African affairs, at 1800 Beirut time. President Ilyas al-Hirawi is expected to meet with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at 1800 New York time, 0100 Beirut time.

Earlier in the day, President al-Hirawi met with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Hurd said afterward that he expressed his best wishes for Lebanon's future. He added that he congratulated the president on the government's efforts in the past months to restore security and peace to Lebanon. Our correspondent has learned that Hurd thanked President al-Hirawi and his government for the efforts to help release the British hostages and for the government's seriousness toward this matter. Hurd expressed Britain's readiness to support any Lebanese request for aid regarding the international fund to rebuild Lebanon and to support Lebanon's stand on its participation in a peace conference and on Lebanon's efforts to implement Resolution 425. [passage omitted]

In its meeting with Kelly, the Lebanese presidential delegation gave him Lebanon's reply to the U.S. letter of assurances to Lebanon. According to our correspondent, the draft U.S. guarantees assert the recognition of Lebanon's international borders, the implementation of Resolution 425, and Israel's complete withdrawal from the Lebanese territories apart from the proceedings of the international conference. The letter linked the Israeli withdrawal and the Lebanese Government's central authority in a manner that would guarantee security in the south and halt hostilities against Israel. Our correspondent says a series of U.S. yes's have been noted: yes to lifting the political and diplomatic embargo on Lebanon, yes to economic aid, and yes to a military training program.

Al-Husayni Outlines U.S. Assurances

NC2609193891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has granted an exclusive interview to Voice of Lebanon correspondents in New York. He said the Lebanese Government has obtained assurances from U.S. President George Bush and the U.S. Administration that reassert the U.S. position on the Casablanca Arab Summit, the formation of the Arab tripartite committee, and reviving the constitutional, security, and military institutions in Lebanon.

Speaker al-Husayni said that implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425 is the last stage in resolving the Lebanese crisis. He said he believes it is not possible to take serious steps in resolving the regional crisis unless the Lebanese crisis is settled. He said: We remain committed to the idea that settling the Lebanese crisis is the actual prelude to resolving the Middle East crisis.

Al-Husayni said the United States has promised to handle Resolution 425 separately from the peace conference. He added: In our current talks with the Americans, we are seeking to turn these promises into guarantees that this resolution will be implemented soon so that the Lebanese state can establish its authority over all its territories. When this happens, we will be able to say that we have closed the Lebanese crisis file.

Cicippio Reportedly To Be Released by 29 Sep

NC2709050491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0440 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Citing what it described as a fundamentalist source, REUTER has reported that American hostage Joseph Cicippio will be released by 29 September. The source added that Israel will follow this move by releasing a second group of Arab prisoners.

The source pointed out that Cicippio's release is part of a deal reached with the United Nations in an effort to find a final solution to the hostage issue in the Middle East. The source added that Israel will embark on a similar effort.

REUTER also cited a pro-Iranian man of religion in south Lebanon, whose name was not given, as expecting an Israeli initiative within the next few hours. The man pointed out that no hostage will be released unless such an initiative is made.

Tehran Medics Said Examining Hostages for Release

LD2609153491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Amir Tahiri report: "Iranian Doctors In Beirut To Examine Hostages"]

[Excerpts] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed sources have revealed the arrival of an Iranian medical team in Beirut to examine Western hostages before "their imminent release."

It is not known exactly when the team arrived there, but the sources say that at least two of the remaining hostages will be released soon, probably within a few days.

Speculation over the question of speeding up the hostages' release increased following the handover of British hostage Jackie Mann to Syrian security authorities in Beirut on the evening of September 24. [passage omitted]

Jackie Mann was held by the Revolutionary Justice Organization, one of several groups involved in kidnapping Western nationals in Lebanon since 1982.

An expert says: That organization responds to Tehran's endeavors without any difficulty, but the question of the hostages held by the Islamic Jihad Organization might be difficult. [passage omitted]

Once the hostages held by the Justice Organization are released Tehran will be in a stronger position to put pressure on the Jihad Organization.

As for the deal whereby the hostages will be released before the end of the year, it was negotiated between Iranian President Rafsanjani and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar during the latter's recent visit to Tehran.

The deal is based on three commitments—by Iran, Israel, and the Hizballah—to exchange hostages and prisoners.

Thus Iran and its supporters in Lebanon have abandoned their old demands for Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. All Israel has to do now is to release 370 Lebanese prisoners.

The issue of the two German hostages is not covered by the deal, though President Rafsanjani and Perez de Cuellar did promise to work to secure their release once the other Western hostages have been released. This is because the Hammadi family is a principal power in the Jihad Organization, which holds the two Germans as a means of putting pressure on Bonn to release two of the family's sons, convicted of terrorism.

Also under the deal, Israel will obtain two of its missing soldiers held by Hizballah and the bodies of three others, two of whom are now held by the Amal Movement.

Although the sources in Tehran insist that the deal will go ahead as scheduled, many observers believe that when a hostage is released, new problems will emerge. These problems include an Israeli decision to delay 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd's release until the end, although the Jihad Organization regards his release as a principal part of the deal.

Amal, Hizballah Claim Attack on Lahdist Militia

NC2709114991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1030 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The Israeli occupation forces intensified their bombardment of the liberated areas today, and agent Lahd's militiamen closed the Zummarayya crossing gate until Monday.

Our correspondent Maha Hamdan has the following report:

[Begin recording] An Israeli patrol raked the outskirts of 'Alman and al-Shumariyyah this morning while other Israeli forces bombarded the approaches to al-Qa'qa'iyah Bridge and the Litani River. Meanwhile, an Israeli armored patrol was observed in the Tuhrah, al-Suwayda', and 'Ali-al-Tahir hills at 1000. Two armored personnel carriers were also seen on the Arnun-'Ali-al-Tahir Road, which is commonly used by the Israeli forces.

According to reports from the occupied border strip, a group of agent militias raided Dayr Siryan village yesterday evening, set up checkpoints, and stormed houses in search of resistance men. Israeli 155-mm artillery in al-Majidiyah ridges shelled the western hills of Mount Hermon this morning for 15 minutes, causing material damage. [passage omitted] [end recording]

In another development, reports from the south said that Israeli forces bombarded the approaches to Frun, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and al-Qusayr today. Israeli vehicles and troop concentrations were seen in the al-Shumariyah area.

A statement issued by the joint operations room of the Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters said that a joint operation has been carried out against the agents. The statement added that, at 0940 today, a group composed of members from the Amal Movement and the Islamic resistance detonated a highly explosive charge while a Lahdist infantry patrol was passing on the al-Shumariyah Road. All the members of the patrol were either killed or wounded in the blast.

Minister Junblatt Criticizes Government

NC2609173491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The issue of evacuees continues to eclipse other issues. Reactions continue to the massacre perpetrated by Shawkat al-Shaqar in Ma'asir al-Shuf several days ago when he killed several soldiers and civilians.

Minister Walid Junblatt held a news conference in al-Mukhtarah on this subject, in which he announced that the evacuees will not return to their homes before Lebanon is reconstructed and a national reconciliation effort is undertaken on economic, cultural, and historical foundations. He said this effort must draw lessons from history so that similar incidents will not occur.

Junblatt said: Let us regard this incident as a purely individual act, although the citizens of Ma'asir al-Shuf know the truth.

Junblatt stressed that the mountain does not belong exclusively to the Maronites, the Druzes, or any other particular Lebanese sect. He called for consolidating the al-Ta'if agreement through solid steps, primarily national reconciliation.

He said he believes the current government does not constitute a proper framework for national reconciliation. He added that he does not believe Israel will withdraw from the south in the near future or that the territory will be liberated based on UN Security Council Resolution 425. He announced that the three government leaders' trip to New York is for entertainment.

Junblatt said he hopes all hostages will be released and that the issue of kidnapped citizens will be settled.

Al-Shar' on Peace Conference, Palestinian Rights

NC2709064791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has given a statement to our radio in which he reiterated that Syria's speech at the UN General Assembly will concentrate on Syria's role in the peace process and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that the speech will also emphasize Syria's commitment to Arab and Palestinian rights, regarding both the restoration of the occupied land and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Answering a question about Bush's call for revoking the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism, the Syrian foreign minister said that this is a very critical issue and added that the cancellation of any UN resolution would constitute a serious precedent.

Asked to comment on his talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Minister al-Shar' said that the two-hour meeting was constructive and dealt with the details of the guarantees Syria has requested before the beginning of the peace conference.

In response to another question about the Palestinians and their representation in the conference, the Syrian foreign minister said that Syria would accept only a comprehensive settlement. He called for convening a five-state conference among the confrontation states in Damascus.

Al-Shar' described Lebanese President al-Hirawi's speech at the General Assembly as positive.

Al-Shar' Discusses U.S. Guarantees With Baker

JN2709060991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' last night met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Diya'ullah al-Fattal, permanent envoy to the United Nations, and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syrian ambassador in Washington, also attended the meeting. John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs; Policy Planning Staff Director Dennis Ross; and State Department Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler attended for the United States.

Elements of U.S. guarantees to Syria relating to the peace process were discussed during the meeting. It was agreed that Syria and the United States will continue discussions on that issue.

The foreign minister met yesterday with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin. They exchanged viewpoints on bilateral relations, international developments, and the proposed peace conference. They also agreed to continue contacts between the two countries.

Al-Shar' also met with Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen. Discussion centered on developments in the Middle East and efforts to convene the peace conference. The Danish minister praised the important and positive role played by Syria in this process.

John Major Thanks al-Asad on Jack Mann's Release

JN2609180391 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in 1730 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] British Prime Minister John Major has expressed the British Government's thanks and appreciation to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government for the unceasing efforts they made to help obtain the release of British hostage Jack Mann.

British Ambassador in Damascus Andrew Fleming Green today relayed to Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur a message addressed to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad by British Prime Minister John Major. The message thanks his excellency the president and expresses the British Government's appreciation to the Syrian Government for its efforts to obtain the release of British hostage Jack Mann, and also for the unceasing efforts Syria has been making to help secure the release of all hostages.

Al-Zu'bi, EC Parliamentary Team Discuss Relations

JN2709063091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] At 1030 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received a European parliamentary delegation led by Dimitrios Nianias. Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly, attended the meeting.

After welcoming the European parliamentary delegation, al-Zu'bi referred to the historical ties between the two shores of the Mediterranean. He said these ties make the urgent objectives of cooperation between Syria and the Arabs on the one hand, and the European nations on other, in need of constant follow-up so that common interests can be achieved. He stressed Syria's eagerness to consolidate its political, economic, and cultural relations with the EC and to translate cooperation through scientific means, especially since the spheres of this cooperation are wide and beneficial for Europe, Syria, and the Arabs. Al-Zu'bi stressed Europe's growing and important role in bolstering the regional peace process, especially at the current stage when the region is witnessing intensive international and Arab efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive peace to remove the roots of tension and the sources of threats to political, economic, and social stability in the region. He said that these efforts, which are supported by Syria, always collide with the obstacles Israel places before international legitimacy and the efforts being exerted to implement the UN resolutions and the international community's will.

Al-Zu'bi briefed the European parliamentary delegation on Syria's economic and social life, as well as Syria's ambitious development projects.

For his part, the head of the European parliamentary delegation thanked the prime minister for his comprehensive and clear explanation of Syria's internal and external policy. He expressed appreciation for Syria's sincere efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region. He asserted Syria's important and effective role under President Hafiz al-Asad, who had a major and profound effect on European and world peace-loving public opinion, which hopes for security and stability in this region and the world. The head of the delegation also explained the policy objectives of the new and stronger Europe. He indicated that Europe is eager to promote ties with Syria and the Arabs, and to consolidate cooperation to promote relations in all fields.

Afterward, a discussion of all issues pertaining to Syria's development objectives, as well as Arab and international issues, took place. Al-Zu'bi answered a number of questions. The members of the delegation explained a number of matters pertaining to the promotion of the means and formulas of cooperation between Syria and the EC in all fields.

Foreign Ministry on Israeli Golan 'Violations'

JN2509064891 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 24 Sep (SANA)—A document was released this morning at the United Nations containing the statement issued by the Syrian Foreign Ministry on Israeli practices that violate the human rights of Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan. The statement asks the United Nations to put an end to these violations and to work for the release of the prisoners, citizens of the occupied Golan.

Following is the full text of the statement as it was circulated by the UN General Secretariat to the member states as an official document:

Israel has continued its occupation of the Syrian Golan since 1967. It has imposed its laws, administration, and rule on the Golan and annexed it in December 1981, flinging the gauntlet in the face of international legitimacy, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 497 of 1981 and other pertinent UN resolutions which reject and condemn the acquisition of territory by force and deem the Israeli decision to impose its laws, administration, and rule on the occupied Syrian Golan illegal and null and void.

Needless to say, Israel's refusal to comply with UN resolutions and withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan and end its annexation of the Golan as the occupying authority, violates UN resolutions, disregards the will of the international community, and threatens regional and international peace and security. In addition, the Israeli occupation authorities' continuation of their repressive measures and the escalation of their inhuman practices against Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan represent a flagrant violation of the pertinent provisions of the Fourth Hague Agreement of 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 on the protection of civilians in wartime.

As is well known, other relevant UN and Security Council resolutions have asserted that the provisions of all these international and humanitarian conventions completely apply in the case of the occupied Syrian territory in the Golan and other occupied Arab territories.

In addition to their persistence in violating human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan, and imposing arbitrary and unjust measures against the Syrian citizens who are under occupation and reject the annexation of the Golan and bearing Israeli identity cards, the Israeli occupation authorities have been detaining 27 people from the occupied Syrian Golan for a long time (enclosed is a list of the names of the detainees) because these people rejected Israeli occupation and held fast to their national identity and their deep-rooted allegiance to their motherland, Syria.

The Syrian Arab Republic hopes that the necessary efforts would be made to put an end to the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities and their violations of human rights, ensure their commitment to international and humanitarian conventions and charters, and secure the immediate release of the detainees, whose only crime was that they rejected imposing Israeli laws on them, which made the Israeli occupation authorities take them to special courts where they were handed down unjust sentences.

Afghanistan

Chief of Staff Criticizes Pakistan Aid to Rebels

LD2609201591 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] General Mohammad Asef Delawar, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, was at a news briefing attended by a number of domestic and foreign journalists this afternoon. He spoke in connection with the missile attacks by armed extremists supported by Pakistan on Gardyez, Qalat, and a number of border provinces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The chief of staff of the Republic of Afghanistan said in his opening statement that certain military circles in Pakistan resort to further support and arming of the extremists. This is in flagrant violation of the Geneva accords and the spirit of the five-point plan by the UN secretary general and the joint U.S.-Soviet statement in connection with the establishment of peace in the Republic of Afghanistan. Taking this opportunity, the armed extremists increased missile attacks on a number of cities and residential areas of the Republic of Afghanistan, including Gardyez, Qalat, and some part of Nangarhar.

He said that the five-point plan by the UN secretary general and the joint U.S.-Soviet statement prepared practical grounds for ensuring peace in the Republic of Afghanistan. However, the military circles in Pakistan, as they have before whenever such ground is being prepared, resort to further support and arming of extremists for attacks on cities and various parts of Afghanistan.

The case is the same at this stage. These certain circles, without paying any attention to the demands of our people who desire peace, continue their broad support to the armed extremists. This delays the process of ensuring peace in our country.

In connection with the defense capability and level of combat readiness of the Armed Forces, he said that the military doctrine of the Republic of Afghanistan has a defensive character. If the enemy resorts to aggression and violation, a satisfactory reply will be given to them. For example, we gave them such replies in Nangarhar and in a number of other regions of the country after the return of the Soviet forces to their country.

In reply to a question on the use of Scuds and (?Urogan) against the attacks by the armed opposition, he said that this issue was discussed in the historic speech made by esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, yesterday in the country's parliament. Our people do not want war. They are thirsty for peace. They demand that Pakistan not stand against the process of ensuring peace in our country and refrain from military training, arming, the dispatch of saboteurs to the Republic of Afghanistan, and support of armed extremists.

Replying to another question, the chief of staff of the Republic of Afghanistan said that the main supply routes have been protected. Convoys continuously transport primary goods from Hayratan to Kabul and other cities.

Kabul Battalion Surrenders in Jowzjan

BK2609153891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, an entire battalion of the Kabul regime surrendered to mojahedin at Aqchah in Jowzjan Province near the Soviet border. According to reports from Afghanistan, the mojahedin launched a surprise attack on Aqchah military center northeast of (Shergan), forcing the Kabul regime forces to surrender.

During the day-long operation, 218 soldiers of the Kabul regime, including 22 senior officers, surrendered to the mojahedin. A large quantity of arms and ammunition and foodstuffs were also seized during the attack.

A total of 18 Kabul regime forces were killed and a mojahed was martyred during the attack.

Khaliqyar Speaks at UN General Assembly 26 Sep

LD2609192791 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0526 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Kabul, Sep 25 (BAKHTAR)—Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], who has gone to New York to participate in the 46th session of the UN General Assembly, delivered his speech in the UN General Assembly session on Sep. 24, 1991 and urged the international community to help a solution of the Afghanistan problem, reports a BAKHTAR correspondent accompanying the Afghan delegation to New York.

Premier Khaliqyar in his speech emphasised that the prime task of his cabinet is to pave the ground for the formation of a new government in Afghanistan, based on the will of the overwhelming majority of the Afghan people.

He added that two-thirds of his cabinet members are composed of influential technocrats, educated in the Western countries.

Prime Minister Khaliqyar while expressing the readiness of the government of Afghanistan for the starting talks with the opposition without pre-conditions under the auspices of the UNO [United Nations Organization] or other countries interested in the solution of the Afghanistan problem stressed first and foremost the people of Afghanistan they are willing to the ensurance of peace and termination of war in their country.

Khaliqyar called the recent joint statement of USA-USSR on the termination of arms delivery to the warring sides in Afghanistan as a step forward for the removal of hinderances against the ensurance of peace in Afghanistan.

The Afghan premier stated that we are hoping that the constructive stance of the two countries, guarantors of the Geneva accords, vis-a-vis the issue of Afghanistan, should be practically supported, and other concerned countries in the Afghan issue should help in the field too.

Premier Khaliqyar in the session of the UN General Assembly shed light on the recent proposals of the RA state as the first step taken towards the political solution of the issue of Afghanistan, said that those proposals are embracing the proclamation of a country-wide truce, and starting of negotiations with the participation of the officials of the RA government local field commanders, leaders of the different parties and formations stationed in Peshawar and Tehran, the former king of Afghanistan, and his upholders as well as the Afghan intelligentsia living in the European and American countries.

Protocol Signed With India on Wheat

LD2609202591 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Protocols on delivery of 50,000 tonnes of wheat in exchange for 1,500 tonnes of tea and the free assistance of the Republic of India to the Republic of Afghanistan were signed last night in Kabul by Professor Dr. Mohammad Anwar Dost, minister of light industry and foodstuffs, and deputy ministers of the foodstuffs and trade of Kazakhstan and the chairman of tea trading company of the Indian Republic.

The signing ceremony was attended by candidate academician engineer Abdul Samad Salim, deputy prime minister; Minister of Commerce Zakim Shah; Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to Kabul; V.J.K. Nambiar, ambassador and plenipotentiary of Indian Republic to Kabul; and the deputy minister and a number of heads of departments of the Ministry of Light Industry and Foodstuffs.

The Indian Republic will hand over 1,500 tonnes of tea to Kazakhstan Republic in accordance with the protocols. In return, the Repubic of Kazakhstan will hand over 50,000 tonnes of wheat to the Republic of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Presidential Candidates File Nomination Papers

BK2609161091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Nomination papers of all three candidates in the presidential election have been declared valid by the Election Commission. The candidates are: the ruling BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] nominee, former Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas; opposition nominee, former Chief Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury; and independent candidate, Alhaj Mohammad Maqbul Hossain. The last date for withdrawal of candidatures is Monday, 30 September. The members of parliament will elect the country's president on the 8th of next month.

President Meets Indian Team, Pakistani Navy Chief

BK2609160691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The National Defense College team of India called on Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed this morning. The team comprises 13 officers of the Indian Armed Forces and civil services and four defense officers from Afghanistan, the United States, Sri Lanka, and Nigeria. They exchanged views with the acting president on matters of academic interest. Welcoming the team, the acting president said Bangladesh wants peace and stability to prevail in the subcontinent. The visit like this, he said, would promote mutual understanding among the countries of the region to pave the way for greater amity and cooperation. He said a climate of trust in the area would enable the country to fight hunger, poverty, illiteracy, and backwardness. Indian High Commissioner K. Srinivasan was president.

The visiting chief of naval staff of Pakistan, Admiral Yasturul Haq Malik, also called on the acting president. Welcoming him, the acting president said the visit represents the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] spirit of fellow feeling among nations of the region. He said exchange of such visits would help promote understanding and friendship in the region. Pakistani High Commissioner Anwar Kemal was present.

Japanese Debt Relief Assistance Pact Signed

BK2609162591 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Bangladesh will receive a debt relief grant assistance of 153.83 crore taka from Japan under an agreement signed in Dhaka today. ERD [external resources division] Additional Secretary Shaukat Ali and Japanese Ambassador Toshio Saiki signed the agreement. The debt relief grant is the 14th of its kind. The grant money will be utilized by Bangladesh for import of industrial raw materials, machinery and spares. The source of procurement of the grant is (?untied).

India

Foreign Minister Speaks at UN General Assembly

BK2709044891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] India has called upon the international community to condemn terrorism which threatens to undermine human rights and democratic institutions. Addressing the UN General Assembly, the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, said terrorism is devastating when it is aided, abetted and sponsored from abroad. In his half-an-hour address, Mr. Solanki referred to the political changes facing the world and made a fervent appeal for an expansion of the UN Security Council. He said the council should reflect the increased membership of the world body and ensure a balanced representation. The external affairs minister called for a mechanism under which compensation to the adversly affected countries is given automatically in the event of imposition of sanctions. Mr. Solanki drew attention to the serious problems created by the Gulf Crisis for the economies of several developing countries. Referring to the unfavorable economic environment for developing countries, he called for a comprehensive strategy to deal with the debt crisis. Mr. Solanki called for a new treaty to give legal effect to a binding commitment by nuclear-weapon countries to eliminate such weapons. He said an attempt is being made to institutionalize racism in Fiji. He called upon the Mayanmar Government to accept the people's verdict and restore democracy in the country. On West Asia, he said a cmprehensive settlement will be possible only if it is restored to the Palestinian people their fundamental rights including their rights to a homeland.

Pakistan Military Agrees To Diffuse Tension

BK2709043491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The military delegations of India and Pakistan at their meeting in Rawalpindi have agreed on the need to take confidence-building measures to defuse the tension between the two countries. The Indian team was led by director general of military operations, Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar, while Lieutenant General Peer Dad Khan led the Pakistani side. Both sides are reported to have expressed concern over the escalation of tension on the Indo-Pak border under the line of control. Our Islamabad correspondent understands that the recent clashes between the armed forces of the two countries in the Punch and Neelum Valley sectors in Kashmir were discussed in details. The two sides considered measures to prevent the occurrence of such incidents. For this purpose the directors general of military operations of both countries are reported to have agreed to have frequent contact on front lines to defuse the tension.

President Receives New Soviet Ambassador

BK2709100391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The new Soviet ambassador, Mr. Anatoliy M. Dryukov, presented his credentials to the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] in New Delhi today. Welcoming the ambassador, Mr. Venkataraman said that India noted with great satisfaction the restoration of constitutional authority in the Soviet Union and the resumption of duties by President Gorbachev after the attempted coup on the 19th of last month.

Assam Chief Minister Comments on Situation

BK2709091691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, has said that the the deployment of the army will continue in the state till the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] militancy is contained. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said the ULFA should release the hostages without any condition.

In reply to a question, Mr. Saikia alleged that Bangladesh is aiding and abetting the militant outfit. He said the so-called commander in chief of ULFA has visited China.

Twenty-one 'Militants' Killed at Kashmir Border

BK2609160791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 sep 91

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, 21 militants have been killed in an encounter with the security forces in the five-km border belt since last evening. One injured militant has been arrested. Security forces have recovered a large amount of arms and ammunition. According to an official spokesman the militants had come from across the line of control after having training in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Students Protest New Job Reservation Policy

BK2609160391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] The Congress-I has urged all political parties not to take political advantage of the protests by section of students over the reservation policy. The party spokesman, Mr. Chandulal Chandrakar, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the Congress-I effort is to settle the problem in an amicable way.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] says the government policy on the reservation for backward classes has both positive and negative aspects. The general secretary of the party, Mr. Inderjit Gupta, said in a statement in New Delhi today that while the 27 percent reservation for the backward classes is welcome, the introduction of an economic criterion is regrettable. The party expressed the hope that any controversy arising out of the government's decision will be solved through discussions and not by street agitations and violence.

Students in some cities stayed away from the classes today in protest against government's decision on the reservation issue. At some places, including the capital Delhi, students tried to disrupt road traffic.

Front, Left Parties Criticize Price Hike

BK2709094391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The leaders of the National Front and the left parties have made a scathing attack on the government for failure to keep its poll promise to control prices. Addressing a rally at the Boat Club lawns in New Delhi this afternoon, they said there has been a steep increase in the prices of essential commodities because of lopsided taxation measures. Criticizing the economic policies, the leaders alleged that the rupee was devalued under pressure from the International Monetary Fund which led to an inflationary trend. They said they are not against economic reforms. But these should not be at the cost of putting the burden on the common man and giving a free reign to the multinationals. Those who addressed the rally included Mr. V.P. Singh, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao, Mr. Sharad Yadav, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, Mr. Chitta Basu, and Mr. Nani Bhattacharya. Senior Janata Dal leaders—Mr. Ajit Singh and Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde—were not present. The rally was still on when reports last came in.

Ordinance Issued on Private, Public Sector Units

BK2709102891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The government today lifted the distinction between private and public sector undertakings for treatment of monopolistic and unfair trade practice excepting in certain vital areas like atomic energy and defense. A presidential ordinance promulgated in New Delhi today says financial institutions, real estate and chit funds have also been brought under the amended act. The ordinance seeks to enlarge the scope of inquiry by the MRTP [Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices] Commission to effectively curb and regulate monopolistic, restrictive and unfair trade practices with deterrent punishment for noncompliance of orders passed to protect public interests.

Briefing newsmen on the salient features of the amendment in New Delhi, the minister of state for law and justice, Mr. P.R. Kumaramangalam, said the act has been restructured for achieving economies of scale. He said pre-entry restrictions for setting up of new undertakings, expansion, amalgamation, merger and takeover of companies have been removed keeping in tune with the liberalization of the economy. The minister said the government is seriously considering establishing MRTP benches in state headquarters for expeditious hearing of cases.

* Learning Tamil Made Compulsory

91P40438A Madras DINAMANI in Tamil 7 Sep 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Compulsory Tamil Education"]

[Text] Jayalalitha, the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, has mandated the study of the Tamil language for the students in Tamil Nadu.

She also said, "There will be a policy of bilingual instruction, in English and Tamil, in Tamil Nadu which will be implemented while keeping in mind the rights of other minorities."

Requiring students in Tamil Nadu to learn Tamil is a welcome mandate. There are some schools in Tamil Nadu where even in the elementary grades the Tamil language is not taught. This approach is deplorable because it results in an infatuation for English. Institutions, run in the name of nurseries, offer the students no chance to learn Tamil. In these institutions and in the schools run by other minorities, learning Tamil should become mandatory.

The chief minister has expressed concern about the falling standards of education in Tamil Nadu, and the eventual loss of rank by the Tamils in the national competitive examinations. This is a legitimate concern. The Government of Tamil Nadu must set up a high level committee immediately to study this situation and to recommend improvements. The recommendations made by such a body should be executed within an established time frame.

Due to enforcement of a bilingual language policy in Tamil Nadu, the opportunities to learn Hindi have been reduced. Declaring that English will continue as the second language along with the mandatory Tamil, has generally been misunderstood by the people of the state to mean that Hindi has been replaced by English, and the politicians have done nothing to correct this misconception. In order to increase the work-opportunities for the youth of Tamil Nadu, more avenues for learning Hindi should be made available, since it has been declared the national language. It is true that there has been resistance to the forcible teaching of a nonnative tongue. However, Hindi could be offered as an elective in all schools with enough incentives provided for learning it. It is imperative to implement these steps if Tamil Nadu hopes to keep its position within the country.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons

LD2709131291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The unity-inspiring Friday prayers were held in the most magnificent manner in Tehran today on the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of His Holiness Mohammad Ibn-'Abdallah, the honorable prophet of Islam, peace be on him and his scion, and also the birth anniversary of the sixth infallible imam, peace be on him, under the imamate of His Eminence Ayatollah

Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of the Muslims. [crowd chants slogans praising Khamene'i]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i offered congratulations on the occasion of the birth anniversary of His Holiness Mohammad Ibn-'Abdallah, the last of God's messengers, the best and most immaculate of the divine prophets, and His Holiness Ja'far Sadiq, his dear offspring and the sixth infallible imam, peace be upon him. He then said that the all-embracing characteristics of the dear prophet of Islam were unique. He explored the dimensions of his life—a life epitomizing struggle and serving as a model for all. His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed that it is incumbent on all Muslims to follow God's prophet in all details of life. He said the prophet's life was full of lessons for others; he always remembered God and that was the secret of the prophet's submission to God.

The leader of the Islamic Republic referred to Holy Defense Week and paid tribute to the selfless efforts by the nation and the brave combatants of Islam during eight years of holy defense in his second sermon. He said that the imposed war was a plot hatched by the enemies of Islam against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which led to the victory of the Iranian nation and the glory of Islam.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] They brought about the war in an effort to annihilate the Islamic system, or else force it to surrender—for them it made no difference. They wanted the Islamic Republic to fall under the pressure of occupation and the problems of war. If it did not fall, then they were hoping that the Iranian nation and its grand imam would be forced perhaps to surrender to their enemies and stretch out their hands to them, saying: All right, we give up, please don't let Iraq go on relentlessly attacking us. That surrender has been the fate of all, or most, of the countries which faced similar calamities; they have turned to a big power and stretched out their hands. That was their objective and there is no doubt here; they never had the pleasure of seeing their wish fulfilled, however.

If Iran had yielded to America, then the war would have ended sooner. But then the calamity of capitulating to American domination is a hundred times worse than the calamities of war. The calamity of foreign domination is heavier and harder for a nation to bear than the calamity and damages imposed by the war.

Do you see how they are treating the Iraqi regime today? As soon as arrogance establishes its dominance and forces you to surrender then there are no bounds to its demands. Arrogance stops and observes its limit when it faces resistance on the part of other nations. Any nation that indicates the slightest sign of surrendering to arrogance stands to lose—and it will be a very heavy loss.

Their aim was to force the Islamic Republic to surrender, but they failed. After eight years of war we do not have to take an oath and swear that we won the war. What is victory in war, after all? An enemy with all that might and with all those material resources attacks a nation; then the nation stands against it for eight years. Now if after eight years everything is the same as it was on the first day of the war—not an inch of the nation's territory of the nation is occupied, nor has the nation accepted the slightest imposition from the enemy—then is that not victory for the nation?

Our nation—with its youth and its combatants; with its army, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and popular mobilization forces; with its brave tribal people; with its people from all walks of life; with self-sacrificing families; and with intelligent and aware men and women blessed with the courage and faith of its great leader and his unique reliance on God—succeeded in standing up to America, Europe, the Soviet Union of those days, and the empires of East and West. After eight years it forced all of them to concede [crowd chants in approval] the victory of the Iranian nation and their own defeat. [end recording]

Continuing his remarks, the guardian of the cause of the Muslims expressed the belief that the new world order, as proposed by America, represents the continuation of the criminal efforts of the great Satan to establish all-embracing domination over the world and suppress the cries of those seeking freedom and Islam.

On the conference known as the Middle East peace conference he said: This conference is aimed at achieving the objectives of the Zionists. They want to sell Palestine out. But honor-seeking Muslims not only will not yield to such plots, but will also stand against them.

In conclusion His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i once again stressed the destiny-making issue of unity among the Muslims. He said that it is everyone's duty to shun any issue which might lead to discord.

Criticizes Peace Conference

NC2709141991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1120 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Friday sermon delivered by Ayatollah Khamene'i on 27 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] For approximately the last half a century, the Palestinian issue has been a source of tragedy and extreme grief for Muslims and one of the most bitter events in their modern history. After the infamous Balfour Declaration, which constituted the first step toward displacing the Palestinians, occupied Palestine and the Palestinian people have never been subjected to a more serious conspiracy than the one being concocted today by the United States, assisted by other countries and supported by the silence of and cooperation of some Arab countries. The plan being prepared for Palestine today is to liquidate the Palestinian issue and sell out all the Islamic Palestinian land to the culprits, the usurpist Zionists. This is a grave danger threatening Muslims and a true and all-out tragedy that could befall them if the plan is allowed to succeed, God forbid.

Compliance with or submission to the goals of this contrived conference on the Palestine issue is prohibited [haram] from the Islamic viewpoint and runs contrary to the provisions of holy sharia. From the political viewpoint, this incident represents the most humiliating episode for the Muslim peoples and governments and opens wide the door for penetrating the Islamic states and tampering with their affairs. It gravely belittles the dignity of all advocates of justice and liberation and constitutes the ugliest prelude to repressing all signs of alertness and awakening in the Middle East and throughout the Islamic world. Thus, it paves the way for fulfilling the Zionist occupation's dreams of expansion from the Nile to the Euphrates. From the humanitarian and ethical point of view, it is a mockery of all the martyrs and mujahidin who sacrificed their lives and what is dear to them on the road to Palestine in the past half century and an act of injustice to all the displaced families who for two generations have suffered life in the camps and the agony of being displaced from homes and territories. It is a death sentence for thousands of resisting Palestinian youngsters and a violation of the dignity of thousands of patient Palestinian women. It means a perpetuation of a people's poverty, sickness, and displacement.

After all this, how could any sincere Muslim, from the rulers or from the peoples of this nation, allow himself to support, take part in, or comply with the result of this U.S. conference on Palestine? It is a betrayal of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian issue, and Islam, and keeping silent about it is a tragedy and participating in it is a grave crime. If the United States thinks such a conference could extinguish the growing Islamic holy flames in Palestine, it is completely mistaken. If some Arab politicians, Palestinian or otherwise, imagine that the Palestinian people and their peoples will forgive their participation in such a conspiracy, they are gravely mistaken. Palestine is for the Palestinian people and part of the Islamic territories. The usurpist entity [Israel] must vanish [yadmahill], and this is the destiny of Palestine which sooner or later will be fulfilled. And God hath full power and control over His affairs; but most among mankind know it not. [Koranic verse]

Brothers and sisters: Let me congratulate the entire Islamic nation on the anniversary of Prophet Mohammad, may peace and prayers be upon him, and his grandson Imam Ja'far Bin-Mohammad al-Sadiq, may peace be upon him [cheers], praying to God Almighty to turn this blessed occasion into a source of inspiration for the Muslims to be more determined about achieving their unity and preserving their dignity and pride.

O God's followers: Fear God and be diligent, alert, and prepared. May God forgive us all. When comes the help of God, and victory, and thou dost see the people enter God's religion in crowds, celebrate the praises of thy Lord, and pray for His forgiveness, for He is oft-returning in grace and mercy. [Koranic verse] May peace and God's blessing be upon you.

Velayati Holds Sideline Meetings at UN Session

Meets Various Counterparts 25 Sep

LD2609040591 Tehran IRNA in English 0726 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, Sept. 25, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in separate meetings with his counterparts from Austria, Albania, Hungary, Jordan, Czechoslovakia, Malta, India, Argentina and Ethiopia here Tuesday discussed bilateral relations and international questions.

Velayati heading a political delegation is currently here to participate in the ongoing 46th annual session of the U.N. General Assembly.

During the meetings, Velayati reiterated the need for providing the Persian Gulf security through the collective cooperation of the regional countries.

Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock described the imminent visit of Velayati to Vienna as a positive development in bilateral relations.

He also expressed hope that the forthcoming session of Iran-Austria joint commission, to be held next month, will result in further promotion of bilateral ties.

Albanian Minister Muhamet Kapllani said that Iran enjoys an special importance in international arena and called for the best possible relations with Iran.

Also, Jordanian Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur in talks with Velayati referred to the recent positive development in Tehran-Amman relations and termed as "principled" the Islamic Republic's stands vis-a-vis the Middle East issue and the Persian Gulf security. He further expressed hope that Iran-Jordan cooperation and consultations on regional developments will increase.

Report on 26 Sep Meetings

LD2609164291 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, Sept. 26, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday reviewed Iran-New Zealand relations with Prime Minister of New Zealand James Bolger. Velayati and Bolger emphasized their interest to broaden Iran-New Zealand relations. Bolger expressed hope that the upcoming visit to Tehran by the trade minister of his country would help promote economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Velayati invited Bolger to visit Tehran. His invitation was accepted by Bolger and it was agreed that the visit would be made at a mutually convenient future occasion.

In his other meetings here Wednesday Velayati conferred with the foreign ministers of Turkey, Greece, Chile, Italy and England.

Velayati reviewed the future activities of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), grouping Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, with Foreign Minister of Turkey Safa Giray in light of the upcoming meeting of its ministers in Tehran next march. The foreign minister of Greece invited Velayati to visit Athens which was accepted by the latter to be made on a mutually convenient future occasion. Velayati said to the Chilean foreign minister that a delegation from Tehran would shortly start for Santiago to reopen the Iranian Embassy there.

The Chilean foreign minister said that his country is to cooperate with Iran in industrial activities and especially in copper industries. Velayati reviewed the internal situation in Iraq, the Middle East, and the developments in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia with the Italian foreign minister.

The Italian foreign minister extended an invitation to Velayati to visit Rome. The Iranian foreign minister accepted the invitation and agreed to visit Rome at a convenient future occasion. In his other meetings with British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd and with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher Wednesday Velayati reviewed the Persian Gulf developments, the situation in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

Velayati said to the British foreign minister that security in the Persian Gulf would be maintained only upon cooperation of the countries of the region and that on that principle Iran attaches an importance to promoting her relations with the littoral Persian Gulf states. Hurd expressed pleasure over the improving relations between Iran and Britain and appreciated Iran's efforts for securing the release of the hostages in Lebanon.

Also the commissar of the European Community (EC) met Velayati here Wednesday and declared the interest of the EC member states to broaden their individual relations with Iran. He expressed hope that he would have an opportunity to visit Tehran shortly within the context of his efforts for broadening EC-Iran relations.

Velayati is here for the 46th General Assembly of the U.N.

Meets Soviet, Azerbaijani Counterparts

NC2709062691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Report by unidentified correspondent in New York on 27 September—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate. the merciful. Good morning and greetings to our esteemed listeners. Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin announced that Moscow attaches great importance to its relations with Tehran. In an interview with an IRIB correspondent, the Soviet foreign minister expressed his country's appreciation of the position the Islamic Republic of Iran recently took on the internal developments in the Soviet Union and recalled that the Soviet Union will continue its effort to expand bilateral relations as much as possible.

The Soviet foreign minister, who is currently in New York attending the 46th annual UN General Assembly session, held talks with our foreign minister last night. They discussed bilateral relations, issues pertaining to Afghanistan, and developments in the Persian Gulf. The Soviet Azerbaijani foreign minister [title as heard] was also present, and the foreign ministers discussed opening the Islamic Republic of Iran's consulates in the Soviet Asian Republics.

In his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin, our foreign minister stressed the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with these republics, the establishment of which has been requested by some of the republics themselves. Our foreign minister emphasized the need to resolve the Afghanistan issue amicably and justly and expressed his pleasure over the establishment of democracy in the Soviet Union and the return of peace to Moscow.

Meets France's Dumas, Others 27 Sep

LD2709113191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Iran and France agreed to increase the consultations between the two countries' officials in order to settle the remaining points in their financial dispute. This agreement was reached at yesterday's meeting between Foreign Minister Velayati and his French counterpart Roland Dumas in New York.

Dumas stressed the willingness of his country to improve relations with Iran during the meeting.

Our foreign minister met with the Lebanese and Cypriot presidents, as well as the foreign ministers of Ireland and Bulgaria on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session yesterday. They reviewed the expansion of ties with these countries.

After his meeting with Mr. Velayati, Gerald Collins, the Irish minister for foreign affairs, stated that the Persian Gulf events were among the topics he discussed with his Iranian counterpart. He said: Ireland regards the Islamic Republic of Iran as the determining factor in the Persian Gulf region and is anxious to expand its cooperation with Tehran.

Commentary on Bush's 'Opportunistic' UN Speech

LD2509214291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1110 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the speech he delivered to the annual session of the UN General Assembly in New York, U.S. President Bush called for the cancellation of resolutions 3379 [as heard] of the assembly which likens Zionism to a form of racism. [passage omitted] Bush's call for the cancellation of this resolution at a time when the Zionist regime has not changed its Zionist attitudes in any way and is persisting with its racist actions as before, has amazed many countries of the world. The amazement is more than anything else due to the fact that America's proposal has been put forward at a time when the Zionist leaders—enjoying western support and benefitting from current international circumstances—are practicing the worst forms of racism in occupied Palestine and on a worldwide scale. [passage omitted]

It is surprising that in spite of the spread of racist policies and the racial discrimination practiced by the Zionist regime in the occupied territories, America has not only not been thinking about punitive measures against that regime but is, rather, seeking to give it a new concession by the cancellation of the vote cast by the countries of the world at the General Assembly concerning the racist nature of the Israeli regime. In his speech, Bush defined the resolution equating Zionist with racism as one that ridiculed the fundamental principles of the United Nations, not realizing that this definition by the American President is itself an insult to the General Assembly vote of the international community.

In any case, Bush's request is an opportunistic one resulting from current international circumstances and a situation whereby America is in a position to exert influence over Arab and some Islamic and Third World countries, which form the backbone of the General Assembly and which passed in 1975 the resolution equating Zionism with racism.

Last year, despite the fact that America began an extensive move to rescind that resolution, circumstances arising from the Persian Gulf crisis and America's opportunism led Washington's leaders to discard the issue lest it outrage Muslim public opinion and create difficulties for its united Arab front. Now, with this action, America has extended its protection of the Zionist regime at the United Nations from the Security Council—where it enjoys the oppressive right of veto—to the General Assembly, which is the only bastion for articulating the will of the international community in that organization. America is seeking to impose its vote on the United Nations by benefitting from the new world circumstances.

Dailies on Kuwait-U.S. Pact, GCC Cooperation

Pact Endangers Cooperation With GCC

LD2609122191 Tehran IRNA in English 0943 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 26, IRNA—The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in its editorial Thursday said that the signing of Kuwaiti-U.S. military pact has brought security cooperation between Iran and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) under further question.

"The theory of withdrawal of foreign forces and the restoration of security and stability by the countries of the region themselves, is not an idea which can be rejected," the paper said adding, "but it is an urealistic plan in view of the nature of the regimes behind such a theory."

Stating that the PGCC came into being for the purpose of confronting the Islamic revolution, the paper added, "The Americans raised their plan on new security arrangements for the Persian Gulf while Washington was seeking to take the utmost advantage of universal developments."

"To this end, making certain countries of the region move in the same direction that the Arab reaction does is something the White House has focused its attention on in the hope of overshadowing the Islamic revolution."

The editorial concluded, "Under these conditions, to enter into security arrangements raised so far means stepping in a road already chosen by the White House as is evident in the defensive agreement reached between the U.S. and Kuwait which is a member of the PGCC."

Muslims Urged To 'Confront' Pact

NC2709133691 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Sep 91 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Kuwait, a U.S. Colony"]

[Text] The U.S.-Kuwaiti military pact which was to be signed in Mehr [month beginning 23 September], was signed at the U.S. Department of Defense, the Pentagon, on Thursday [19 September]. That is, it was signed sooner than the projected date.

Facts show that the Americans are in such a hurry to fulfill their objectives in the region that they were even concerned about delaying the matter for a few days. This military pact, which will grant America the right to carry out any type of military operation—even without the consent of the Kuwaiti Government—for 10 years, was signed when most of the reactionary regional governments are in a deplorable, distressed situation. Throughout the Middle East, weakness reigns over all the dependent Arab governments and these governments are surrendering to all of America's colonialist wishes for expanding its domination in the area.

America regards the Middle East, and especially the Persian Gulf, with special greed to fulfill its colonialist objectives within its new world order. It is hurriedly trying to devour this prey. Pushing forward the date for signing the military pact with Kuwait manifests this hasty objective. Moreover, the contents of the said pact are so unilateral and so beneficial to the Americans that they actually disgrace the Kuwaiti Government by treating it as a completely helpless puppet. This is so much so that even the expenses for this extensive military plan will be met mainly by Kuwait and America will only pay for the arms it will transfer to that country's bases.

If we look carefully at the signing of the pact and compare it with America's other efforts to set up military bases in Turkey, its efforts to stabilize Israel in the region, and the talks referred to by the U.S. Department of Defense spokesman between America and Arab governments in the Middle East, we clearly will see a vast conspiracy which includes the Middle East and especially the Persian Gulf—a conspiracy which will create the conditions for America to gobble up the rich resources of this area in one gulp.

Details of the Kuwaiti-U.S. pact were not revealed by Pete Williams, who said that revealing them would be contrary to U.S. military diplomacy. The pact apparently envisages the deployment of U.S. tactical weapons and extensive privileges for America to carry out any type of military operation in the region. Thus, America has come one step closer to fulfilling its criminal objectives in the region and, as the bitter course of current events has shown, it will not face major problems from the reactionary regional governments in the next phases of the plan, either.

The extensive plan for a vast American military presence in the region and the implementation of the role of Persian Gulf gendarme by America itself is being fulfilled under the aegis of the dependence of the terrified Arab leaders and the perplexity of the greedy heads of the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms. The rich resources of Islamic countries will be further plundered during this process. When America was paving the grounds for its military presence in Saudi Arabia on the pretext of the Iraqi Army's aggression against Kuwait, it alleged that the military expedition into that country was aimed at warding off the aggression against Kuwait. This was the allegation made from the very beginning to deceive public opinion. America went on to stabilize its military presence in the region and then to strengthen this presence through pacts like the one it now has signed with Kuwait. This proves it is more aggressive than any other aggressor and that its objective was not to ward off the Iraqi aggression, but merely to find a pretext.

This is a reality which nations should understand and confront by rallying around the banner of Islam. The governments ruling Islamic countries do not have the competence to be the vanguards of this confrontation. Therefore, it is up to the nations themselves to rise up and fight the enemies—enemies who have come to the region to plunder and will not return until they fulfill this intention, unless they are confronted with the alertness and general uprising of the nations.

It is better for the dependent heads of the Arab countries not to add to the volume of their black record of dependence and treachery and to rise up with their nations to confront all this disgrace and insult. Muslims will find their way by following the lofty teachings of Islam. They will close the wretched dossier of aggression and tear up the wretched record of arrogance.

GCC Plus Iran Viewed 'Best' Plan for Security

NC2709144691 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Sep 91 pp 2,7

[Editorial: "6+1 Still the Best Plan for Regional Security"]

[Text] Since the time of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and consequently the small regional countries sought the military assistance from the Western countries a basic question has been in the air on what to do next in a situation where a greedy and irresponsible leader of a country embarks on a military venture.

Kuwait was not the first country to be the victim of naked aggression. The newly born Islamic Republic faced a similar situation and fought for eight years single-handedly but relying on God and its masses.

We are not going to discuss the 'whys,' 'ifs' and 'buts' of the issue of the Iraqi aggression because this column is not enough to reveal the real nature of the Iraqi President Saddam who vainly tried to deceive the Muslim world making out that he was a champion of the Islamic cause by launching a few missiles at the Zionist regime. Anyway time will definitely give the best answers of all 'ifs,' 'whys' and 'buts.'

At present what we are concerned with its regional security to meet the same situation. The security which we are talking about and have been talking about time and again is that of the Persian Gulf which includes littoral states including Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq on the opposite coast of the Persian Gulf and the entire southern coast of the Persian Gulf which extends hitherward from Bandar-e Mahshahr to the Hormuz Strait at the mouth of the Persian Gulf which belongs to Islamic Iran.

In today's changing world order even a layman can understand that regional countries can never rely on alien forces for security of the region and this is what all officials of the Islamic Republic and above all Leader Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i have repeatedly said.

Surprisingly, the words coming from the other side of the Persian Gulf are vague and quite unreasonable. Of course things are changing now but the changes are coming very slowly.

The basic reason is the lack of trust among regional countries and still there are doubts about Iran which have been planted in the minds of the rulers on the other side of the Persian Gulf by the enemies of Islam.

We are not talking about the time of the war which was imposed on us and we had to fight. But since the time the ceasefire was observed, Iran's crystal clear policy should have been enough to remove those so-called misunderstandings.

As far as the security of Iran itself is concerned, the entire world knows that Iranians, and as Ayatollah Khamene'i called them 'the children of the Islamic Revolution,' have proved that they have the capability to keep their borders secure.

But we also know that complete regional security is possible only when the region itself is enfolded in peace and tranquility. This is the reason Iran is pursuing a goal aimed at a comprehensive plan for regional security and insisting that no alien force should be on the soil of the region and no other country should be involved in the security system of our region.

Of course there is room for an individual country to have friendly alliances with one or two particular, country or countries, but that too should be for a short period of time.

Otherwise as Tehran earlier suggested, a 6-1 formula for the security of the region is the best answer for a long term security plan. Iraq may be included in the plan as soon as the situation in Baghdad is clear. There is no doubt that such a security plan will work and it will leave no room for military adventurism by not only any regional country but also by any others from outside the region, who will not then dare even think of any offensive against any country within such a security framework.

U.S. Acts in Iraq Show 'Irreconcilability'

NC2709112991 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 23 Sep 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Bush's Kinder, Gentler Society"]

[Text] "There is no such thing as a nice way to die and that's why war is so tragic," commented White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater.

In referring to the Feb. 24 incident reported in the New York newspaper NEWSDAY; that three U.S. brigades used earthmoving equipment attached to tanks and knowingly buried thousands of Iraqis defending their trenches during the Persian Gulf war, he called the affair as "just one of those things".

Washington, while disclaiming the number of casualties which were estimated at 8,000, did not deny its actions saying that this was done to end the war soon and not incur a lot of American casualties.

This unprecedented and certainly most inhumane act, once again brings into sharp focus the irreconcilability of American policy and action. The United States poses as an advocate of and active campaigner for human rights, even trying this issue to aid packages. Washington has unceasingly preached to others that international issues must be solved through peace and diplomacy and not through force; nevertheless, it did not hesitate to resort to the most savage means to impose its wishes on others.

The recent revelation is again another example of how America has one set of rules for its actions and completely different ones for everyone else's.

The series of violations attesting to its arrogance seem endless—the mining of Nicaraguan ports, the bombing of Libya, the invasion of sovereign countries like Grenada and Panama, the unremorseful bombing of a commercial Iran Air flight which killed all passengers aboard and which till now remains unresolved.

During the Persian Gulf war, worse atrocities were perpetuated by the Americans, who routinely pulverized and buried Iraqi soldiers alive. Unsettling indeed that these actions were perpetuated in the name of the United Nations.

The world continues to be a silent witness to such crimes. The Western press and the European government have characteristically downplayed, if not totally ignored, this recent event. Just like the way they glossed over the deaths and the billions of dollars in damages caused during the U.S. invasion of Panama. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark charged that at least 4,000 Panamanians were killed which contrasted sharply with the official toll of 655. And then there is the Vietnam war which resulted in the death of perhaps 2 million Vietnamese and the continuing isolation of the survivors.

In the aftermath of the hot conflict in the Persian Gulf, the American encouraged the Iraqis to rebel against the tyrannical Saddam only to leave the millions who responded out in the cold. The repression of Palestine continues, unstinting support goes on for repressive regimes like El Salvador's, conflicts are stirred with superpower encouragement, in so many parts of the world. And these are just in fulfillment of George Bush's campaign pledge for a "kinder, gentler society".

Visiting Syrian Chief of Staff Meets Shahbazi

LD2609160591 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 26, (IRNA)—Chief of the Joint Staff of Syria Hikmat al-Shihabi in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Major General 'Ali Shahbazi here Thursday reiterated Damascus call for a just and lasting peace in the region which will ensure the rights of the Palestinians and return of all occupied territories.

The Syrian Army official who arrived here Wednesday at the head of a delegation also emphasized importance of Tehran-Damascus relations.

Major General Shahbazi stressed the need for unity among Muslim countries to counter plots of the enemies. He also voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with Syria in military and non-military areas.

Cuban Energy Minister Arrives for Visit

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2509200491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Diaz Castro, the Cuban energy minister, this morning. The Cuban minister conveyed the warm greetings of Cuban President Fidel Castro, submitted a report about talks held on energy matters, and declared his country's interest in increasing cooperation. He praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's revolutionary stances in international organizations, stating: The constancy of the Islamic Republic of Iran's stances is admirable; we hope that the Islamic Republic will have the greatest possible success on international issues.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed gratitude for Mr. Fidel Castro's kind message and said: Iran has consistently welcomed the expansion of cooperation and ties between the two countries, and we hope that your visit will be a good starting point for the expansion of ties. Our country's president stressed: In view of the great geographical distance between the two countries, our technical-economic cooperation is only at a friendly level and there is no political cooperation [as heard]; we hope that cooperation will increase in all areas.

Meets Majles Speaker, Ends Visit

NC2709070591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The visiting Cuban Energy Minister Diaz Castro left Tehran to return to his country this morning after meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the speaker of the Islamic Majles and after reviewing the Islamic Republic of Iran's progress in the energy field.

Prior to his departure, the Cuban Energy Minister spoke to our correspondent and described the outcome of his visit to Iran as excellent. He added that he discussed bilateral cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials.

Mr. Amrollahi, who is vice president as well as head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization, went to the airport to see off Castro. He told our correspondent: An agreement was signed during this visit which we hope will expand cooperation between our two countries.

Indonesian Minister Meets Ahmad Khomeyni

NC2609083191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Students, staff members, and the chancellor from the Islamic Open University have met with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ahmad Khomeyni at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, on the occasion of the commencement of the new academic year. [passage omitted]

The Indonesian information and tourism minister and his accompanying delegation held a meeting with Hojjat ol-Eslam val- Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, which was also attended by the minister for culture and Islamic guidance. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ahmad Khomeyni spoke on the need to establish unity among Muslims and broaden their cooperation in combating the vulgar Western culture.

Letter of Understanding Signed

LD2609203691 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 26, IRNA—Iran and Indonesia inked a letter of understanding on information exchange cooperation, at the end of the visit of the Indonesian Information Minister Harmoko here today.

The letter also signed by Iranian Minister of Islamic Guidance and Culture Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami, predicts exchange of delegations from the mass media of the two countries, and exchange of publicity materials such as periodicals with due respect to the regulations of the two countries.

Mutual news coverage of the important events in the two countries as well as exchange of experts and apprentices between the Iranian and Indonesian mass media are among other cases included in the letter.

The two sides also agreed to make joint efforts to promote the spirit of solidarity among the members of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM), and to do their best for the materialization of the decisions of the NAM information ministers conference.

Harmoko and his accompanying delegation left here for Jakarta at the end of his four-day official visit today.

Reportage on Demonstrations, Strikes, Unrest

Melli University Students Demonstrate

NC2509132891 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] On Monday (?agents) of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and hezbollahi students [word indistinct] foundations clashed with ordinary students of Melli University who were continuing their sit-ins in support of the striking workers of Iran's plants and in protest of high prices, famine, shortages of dormitories, and suppression. The clashes ended when agents deployed in the university intervened. The clashes also made the students realize that the regime intends to fight the strikes the Tehran university students are carrying out.

Another report from the university students indicates that the professors in Tehran universities have joined the students and that the people are continuing their demonstrations on the streets around Tehran University. The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education has issued a statement threatening the students that if they do not attend classes they will be expelled from the university this academic year. The report continues by saying that this statement has had no affect on the university students or professors.

Workers' Strikes Continue

NC2609131091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] In continuation of the workers' strikes throughout the country, it has been reported that the workers and technicians from the petroleum refineries at the main gas pumping station in Bid Boland, situated along the Ahvaz-Omidiyeh road, went on strike on the morning of 23 September to show their solidarity with the factory workers and those at the Arak refinery. The strike is expected to disrupt supply to the pipeline that carries gas to the Soviet Union.

The report continues: Following the workers' strike, the members of the Islamic associations, who had come to assist the safety section guards in their effort to take on bring the workers under control, were badly injured and expelled from the refinery. The workers then took control of the refinery.

In addition to demands for a better standard of living, the striking workers are demanding that political prisoners be released. They have threatened that, if the Guards open fire, they will set off explosions in the Bid Boland gas pumping complex.

Ahvaz Unrest Continues

NC2609132591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Excerpt] According to reports received on 3 September, the people of Ahvaz have staged demonstrations protesting the city's fire, the subsequent power outage, and the lack of employment security. After conducting some marches, they congregated outside the Khuzestan Governorate building and clashed with the police while shouting harshly-worded slogans against the regime's officials. The demonstrations continued intermittently on the streets of Ahvaz until the evening of 24 September. [passage omitted]

Clashes, Unrest in Kordestan

NC2609130191 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] According to reports from Mianeh, armed clashes took place between the guards and Kordish combatants, killing three of the guards and the commander of the Baneh Guards' Corps.

Other reports have indicated that, many leaflets were distributed in the schools in Reza'iyeh, Mahabad, Tabriz, Gorgan, and Tehran as they reopened. The leaflets asked the students and educators to go on strike to protest the shortage of stationery, textbooks, and the unwholesome academic atmosphere.

Tehran University Students Demonstrate

NC2709073291 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 26 Sep GMT 0330 GMT 91

[Text] On 24 September, as Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was giving a speech at Tehran University, it was reported that students were demonstrating on the university grounds. They disrupted the rigged-up ceremonies opening Tehran University, and the demonstration was so intense that it interrupted Hashemi-Rafsanjani's speech.

The report indicates that the special antiriot squad guards threw tear gas at the students, who left the university compound shouting: Death to Hashemi-Rafsanjani! They continued their protest at 24 Esfand Square, shouting slogans such as: The hand of Satan is above our heads! Khamene'i is our enemy!"

The report adds: At 24 Esfand Square, after a significant amount of people had joined the students, the demonstrations increased in intensity. The special squads began firing on the demonstrators, wounding several. Some students and a university professor were arrested. The demonstrations at Tehran University and 24 Esfand Square caused roads in the area to be jammed for hours. Another report says: The ceremonies for the commencement of the new academic year at Tehran University ended ahead of schedule due to the intensity of the student protests. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's awards program for outstanding students was postponed.

Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited Tehran University and encouraged the students to continue their studies and avoid getting involved in protests, strikes, and sit-ins. Despite this plea, it has been reported that leaflets were distributed on the evening of 24 September among Tehran University students on behalf of what was described as the Tehran University Student Association. The leaflets declared that the Tehran University students are determined to continue their struggle against high prices, the suppression of rights, and the university's unsatisfactory academic atmosphere. They also vowed to continue their support of the striking workers.

At the same time that the special antiriot squads were conducting their intensely repressive measures, it was reported that a number of the regime's opponents in Tehran were arming themselves with weapons and Molotov cocktails to combat the violence of the regime's forces. The same report added: In the demonstrations in the Karim Khan Zand Avenue area that followed the shooting by the special antiriot Guards' squads, the people returned the guards' fire.

Pakistan

'U.S.-Led' 'Destruction' of Iraq Criticized

BK2709093991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0908 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 27 (AFP)—Pakistan's former army chief Aslam Beg has again criticised the destruction of Iraq by the U.S.-led allied forces for the liberation of Kuwait, it was reported Friday.

General Beg, whose controversial statements at the peak of the Gulf war embarrassed the government and reportedly annoyed Washington, defended the stance he took against massive bombing of Iraqi installations in February.

"I stand by my thesis," he was quoted as telling a group of Pakistani journalists while launching his Foundation for Research in National Defence and Security (FRIENDS) here Thursday.

The general, who retired in mid-August after completing his three year tenure, said "nobody has the right to destroy a country in order to liberate another country," a THE MUSLIM daily said.

He took over after General Mohammed Ziaul Haq died in a plane crash in August 1988, and served under three successive prime ministers. His statements on major issues frequently caused ripples and also triggered rumours that he may have political ambitions.

At his first press conference after his retirement, he revealed that both President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had offered him a senior position in the government but he had "declined."

"I do not work with the people who do not trust me," he said admitting that until his last day in the office there were doubts about him.

Asked if he was a key player in the ouster of former premier Benazir Bhutto he said he had to agree with the president who dismissed her on August 6, 1990, for alleged abuse of power during her 20-month rule.

"I was chief of the army staff and the president being the supreme commander was my immediate boss," he said. "If I had not agreed with him, I had two options: either to resign or assume power" Beg said adding that he adopted the easiest course.

The general urged both the government and the opposition to end their confrontation and resolve issues politically. He ruled out the possibility of contesting the next presidential polls due in 1993.

"Politics is not my cup of tea," he said, stressing that FRIENDS would be a non-political, nongovernmental organisation. It would try to play a constructive role in opinion building and promoting a consensus and understanding among the general public on vital issues, he said.

Observers said Beg's Foundation would provide a forum to like-minded officers and intellectuals to express their views on important social and political problems.

Membership will be open to research scholars, specialists, experts, writers, speakers, journalists and retired civil and military officers, he said.

Sri Lanka

Forces 'Inching' Toward LTTE's Camp Michael

BK2609113691 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1045 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Security forces were reported yesterday to be inching forward toward a massive LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] camp Michael located in the dense jungles north of Weli Oya in Mullaitivu amidst stiff terrorist resistance. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the terrorists have intensified their attacks since Tuesday [24 September] to hamper security forces advance toward camp Michael. In Tuesday's fighting, terrorists casualties were reported heavy, but details were not available. Meanwhile, a security forces vehicle moving toward (Satyakurandan) was ambushed by a group of terrorists at (Kottikolam) in Batticaloa. Official soures said that three security forces personnel were injured in this incident.

Security Forces Capture Camp

BK2609135091 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1245 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The security forces captured the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] main Camp Michael last night after encountering heavy terrorist resistance. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the ground troops were backed by the Air Force during their fierce onslaught on the camp. Sources said Camp Michael, consisting of buildings housing food stores, ordnance depots and [word indistinct] stations was well-fortified with a system of underground bunkers.

It is believed that a large number of terrorists were killed during the final attack. The security forces are now engaged in consolidating and clearing the area.

Massive Camp Michael is reported to be the third main LTTE terrorist base that fell into the hands of the security forces during the operation Lightening Strike.

Peace Initiatives Launched 27 Sep

BK2709062391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0612 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 27 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan military Friday called off offensive operations against the separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

The move came as a senior government minister announced fresh initiatives to end the long-running ethnic war.

A military spokesman said security forces had "temporarily called off" operations against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

He said there were no reports of clashes anywhere in the island's embattled northeast where the LTTE has been continuing a 19-year-old campaign to establish a separate Tamil homeland.

But he said security forces would continue to occupy areas captured from the LTTE after a massive jungle operation in northeast Mullaitivu region costing the lives of 75 soldiers and an estimated 700 Tamil guerrillas.

The Mullaitivu operation, launched September 2, was described as the biggest ever jungle drive by Sri Lankan forces to destroy some 14 LTTE camps there. The military has so far captured only three.

Two days ago senior minister Ranil Wickremesinghe expressed confidence in parliament that security forces would be able "break the back of the LTTE in a few months."

Then another senior minister, S. Thondaman, a Tamil himself, said he had asked LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran to specify a basis for resuming fresh peace talks after receiving a letter from him.

He described his initiative as the final one to resolve the ethnic crisis.

In another related development, a Tamil political party aligned with the LTTE, [word indistinct] with Colombo Wednesday to extend emergency laws across the country in an apparent move to boost the crisis-hit regime of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The Elavar Democratic Front (EDF), which quit its 13 seats in parliament protesting Colombo's drive against the LTTE in June last year, was preparing to re-enter the legislature, Tamil sources said.

Another Tamil political party, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) charged that the temporary truce was part of a "deal" between Colombo and the LTTE to boost the government's parliamentary support.

The government is facing a no-confidence move and President Premadasa himself is under impeachment charges for allegedly arming the LTTE during an earlier round of peace talks which failed in June last year.

"The EDF will come to parliament and help the government. So the deal is: "you help me and I will stop the offensive," EPRLF spokesman Abbo Yusuf said.

Colombo has been trying hard to distance itself from the LTTE amid persistent charges from dissidents lawmakers, including a former national security minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, that it gave weapons and vehicles to the rebels.

Thousands of people, including security personnel and civilians, have died in the guerrilla campaign by the LTTE to establish a separate state for Sri Lanka's two million Tamil minority.